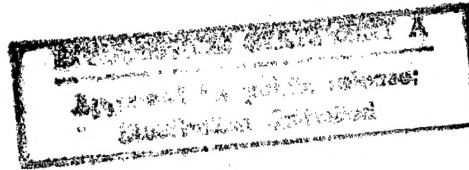


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30 July 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2592

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'ARAFAT DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN REBELLION, PEACE PROSPECTS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL No 255, 9 Jan 82 pp 33-38

[Interview with Abu 'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat) by Ghassan Bairam; date and place not specified]

[Text] The Arab World will witness important developments in the new year and the Arab political map will change.... The difficult Palestinian number respects itself and is not prepared to enter the Arab-American labyrinth.... I have not worked a single day for a settlement and there are differences between political action and a political solution.... The American attitude is bad and it is the cause of everything that Israel does.... There are some who do not want to learn from the experience of al-Sadat and many al-Sadats are still in the area.

With the first day of the new year 1982, the Fatah movement, or rather the Palestinian rebellion, entered its 18th year, the time of life when the sons of man reach the legal age and complete maturity.

One of the familiar humane and social traditions followed by most peoples is to celebrate the 18th birthday of a daughter by placing the shape of a "key" on a piece of cake. This means the girl has come of age and can be given the key to the house because she has reached the stage of maturity that enables her to manage the house freely and responsibly.

The fact that the National Palestinian Liberation Movement Fatah has reached its 18th year now has a larger and deeper meaning, for the Palestinian rebellion has matured and reached its political and revolutionary majority, performing its Palestinian, Arab, and international roles at an early age. But the question now is "Will this 18-year-old Palestinian girl receive the key to the Palestinian state?"

At the beginning of last year, Abu 'Ammar, leader of the Palestinian rebellion, said 1981 would be the year of the Palestinian choice, and so it was in fact and more.

Today, as the year begins, the Palestinian leader tells AL-MUSTAQBAL that 1981 will be the year of the "takeoff of victory."

"To where?"

To the homeland.

What does Yasir 'Arafat, also the leader of the PLO, say? Rather, what is going on at the head of the Palestinian rebellion and what does it expect as it enters its 18th year standing on the threshold of a fateful stage, the most dangerous and most important stage in the history of the Arab-Israeli struggle, indeed, in modern Arab history, a stage full of challenges and difficult struggles.

It was almost 2 pm last Sunday morning (27 December 1981) when Abu 'Ammar wound up a number of press interviews with foreign and Arab magazines, including an American television interview.

Between interviews, the Palestinian leader presided at a meeting of many Palestinian leaders and military, political, and information specialists. This man does not know when the day begins or when the night ends. He does not know any regular sleep or when wakefulness ends whenever he dozes off.

At this late hour of the night, I came to him in the meeting room, thinking that fatigue and heavy work load had taken from Abu 'Ammar what they had taken from me, and I didn't notice the opposite was true until after the leaders, important men, and officials left him when I saw the Palestinian leader still full of vitality and energy. I then forgot my own fatigue and the drowsiness caressing my eyelids fled.

The minutes of waiting for the Palestinian leader to be free to talk I spent looking at the walls of his office and the pictures hanging there of Palestinian cities and regions and of the rebellion. But I didn't find among them the slogan which I was once told Abu 'Ammar had put on the wall above his head. It consisted of two verses of poetry which read:

"I shall be patient until patience makes my patience impossible and I shall be patient until God learns of my affair,

And I shall be patient until patience knows that I am very patient in something more bitter than patience."

I asked Abu 'Ammar: Why don't I see that excellent verse here? But may I ask: Why and from whom are you suffering all the bitterness of patience?

Abu 'Ammar's hearty laugh echoed all over the room and encountered the laughter of the other brothers who were gathered around the big rectangular table where they were sitting and listening to the conversation.

"No...you are very familiar with it...."

Abu 'Ammar was silent for a few moments during which I saw a strange glint appear in his eyes before he spoke to me again.

"The truth exists in these challenges in the face of the Palestinian rebellion. I call it the rebellion of the flying carpet...the rebellion of the impossible."

Once again Abu 'Ammar stared into space for a few moments before continuing:

I remember the period when the 'Asifah burst forth in 1965. At that time, a decree was issued by the united Arab leadership headed by the late 'Ali 'Ali 'Amir to pursue and capture the men of al-'Asifah.

I remember that beginning and the circumstances under which it was born and which accompanied it. I am contemplating the course of this rebellion, this course in which the cataract of blood has not stopped for one moment.

It is the longest rebellion in modern Arab history. The Algerian rebellion lasted 7 and 1/2 years while our rebellion is now entering its 18th year.

Moments of contemplation passed in which I imagined Abu 'Ammar had left us. Then he swiftly returned to continue the conversation in his Palestinian dialect combined with an Egyptian accent, saying:

Let us speak frankly.... If one of us were able to tell about all the suffering we experienced and confronted and still do, the future generations would not in the least believe the scale of the suffering, neither the Palestinian nor the Arab generations in general. This is the Palestinian miracle, how in the midst of this Arab period which I have called "the bad period," the difficult Arab period, how the Palestinian rebellion was able to achieve victories at all levels: military, political, diplomatic, and cultural. And, at the same time, one of our eyes was on our troubles while the other eye was on the troubles of the Arabs and troubles of the region as a whole. We absolutely cannot hold ourselves apart from the problems of the Arab nation (and how many there are!) for anyone who believes it is in our power to achieve victory by ourselves is very mistaken. We will win (only) by (the efforts of) the entire Arab nation.

Arab Breakup...Is Temporary

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Is this what you meant by the rebellion of the impossible?

[Abu 'Ammar] Of course. It is the rebellion of the impossible which produced all these achievements despite the difficulties that I mentioned.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] At any rate, if the Arab position were better than it is and in the shape we would like it to be as far as power and solidarity, etc, are concerned...why did the Palestinian rebellion acquire such scope and such glorious meaning?

[Abu 'Ammar] Let me explain exactly what I mean by the Arab position. A strong Arab position will shorten the time for the Palestinian rebellion. It will shorten the time and reduce the number of victims afterward. I want to recall a historic moment. I go back to the day when Nahhas Pasha met the Palestinian delegation in London (it was in 1938 or 1939, I think) and said: "By God, I don't know.... You are quarreling with the Jews over a Wailing Wall.... Why

are you worried about this Wailing Wall." Imagine, the leader of the largest Arab state of the time saying such a thing. This Wailing Wall stretches from Qantara to Quneitra and beyond. And if we want to prophecy Old Testament borders and security borders and borders that can be defended and military borders.... And now they have something new--water borders, as Begin says. If we want to prophecy, then by God I don't know where the Israelis want to go. Then there are those who don't know even now that a plaque was placed over the entrance to the Knesset on which is written: "This is your land, O Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates." I ask, what is the Israeli flag? The Israeli flag consists of two identical blue lines with the star of Israel between them. Isn't it so? The first line stands for the Euphrates and the second line for the Nile with the kingdom of Israel between them. I mention this to recall once again the words of Nahhas Pasha to the Palestinian delegation to see what we encounter in the way of Israeli arrogance after the tragedy. Or, rather, after the great damage done at the Fez summit and the breakup of the Arab meeting.

About this breakup.... I say the breakup is temporary and, God willing, we can reunite the Arab tribes.... Write about me, by God, let us be able to reunite the Arab tribes and Arab clans after what happened with the enemy annexing the Golan Heights after annexing Jerusalem, the first of the two kiblahs and the third Holy Place. Before that, he announced he wanted to introduce civilian rule to the West Bank and the Gaza strip by force. Now after annexing the Golan Heights, the enemy comes and reviews three military divisions, masses two brigades on the Golan Heights and a division on the Lebanese borders, and places another division in the rear and in Safad and Ja'unah. He then says this force is in addition to the planes that have not stopped for a moment flying over Beirut and the South and in addition to the Israeli fleet. A little while ago, we received a telegram saying that two cruisers, two destroyers, and four or five torpedo boats crossed Lebanese territorial waters and are now between the region of Sa'adiyat (south Beirut) and the South. The Israeli enemy also says this force is to deter the Syrians and Palestinians.

The Israelis believe we are calculating on the possibility of their launching a military operation from the Golan Heights, but we consider it more likely that, if they want to attack the Syrians, their blows will be aimed at the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon, i.e., also against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, i.e., striking the Syrian and Palestinian forces and attacking the combined forces in southern Lebanon and the Biqa'.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Abu 'Ammar, in the 1930s the Palestinian issue or the Arab-Israeli struggle may not have reached the scale and scope we now see. I wonder, therefore, why you find what Nahhas Pasha said at that time strange while there still are Arabs in the world who still think like Nahhas Pasha and consider the mentality to be the same?

[Abu 'Ammar] I am not speaking of Nahhas Pasha, may God have mercy on him! Now, al-Sadat is dead and there are many al-Sadats. The tragedy is that it is not only Nahhas Pasha. There are more than al-Sadat, but my faith in this great nation will not be shaken for a moment. I say that what this great nation faces is the painful travail of a great birth.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] It is said that whenever the travail is long, the offspring is bigger, better, and healthier.

[Abu 'Ammar] This is my belief. Nations do not draw their map or their future in colors but in blood, suffering, toil, and sweat. One day Churchill rose and said: "We have nothing but sweat and blood and tears," when the island was under siege. Churchill was later victorious in World War II.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Good luck to you!

[Abu 'Ammar] We are sure to win. Believe me, (the thought of) victory is not absent from my mind for one moment. I'll give you an example: The last 15-day war. Who asked for a cease-fire, we or the Israelis? The Lebanese people were attacked along with the Palestinian people in the air, on the sea, and on land with the newest of weapons. Then they were the ones who asked for a cease-fire. They are now preparing for a new battle and the most important thing we have to know is that our strength is in this Lebanese fighter with his brother the Palestinian fighter, and this fighter is strong because he broke through the wall of fear. I am not the one who says this. Rather, Nahum Goldmann is the one who says the Palestinian who fears is finished.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Did the Israeli who is afraid begin?

[Abu 'Ammar] But are we afraid of our enemies when Israel asked for a cease-fire or was this request the result of fearing for something or a fear of something?

Don't forget that up to now all the inhabitants of Kiryat Shmoneh have not returned to it. Up to now no more than 50 percent of them have gone back to their homes, whereas during the 15-day war, no one left the South except six Lebanese-Palestinian families, despite the fact that the towns of the South and the Palestinian camps were harassed from the air, land, and sea.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Is it possible they have become tired of fleeing and emigrating?

[Abu 'Ammar] For this reason, then, we broke through the wall of fear.

Fortress of al-Shaqif, Fortress of Salah al-Din

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] In this connection, we must congratulate the Palestinian rebellion on the takeoff of Fatah and give our blessing to Fatah on this takeoff...

[Abu 'Ammar] (interrupting) which is the takeoff of the Palestinian rebellion.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Yes.... If we do not have more than these wishes for victory to present as a gift to the Palestinian rebellion, then what is the gift of the leader of the Palestinian rebellion to his rebellion and his people and the Arab people?

[Abu 'Ammar] I do not have much to give except my blood and my spirit. Generosity of spirit is the highest goal of generosity, but I want to tell you something I was told by the leader of the battle for the fortress al-Shaqif...the fortress

al-Shaqif which has entered history. I am greatly influenced by this fortress because Salah al-Din descended from it to Hattin and from Hattin to Jerusalem.

At the end of a day of the last battle, the leader of the battle for this fortress said to me: "O Abu 'Ammar, be assured that they will not pass except over our bodies." This is my gift to our entire Arab nation. This Palestinian and Lebanese fighter in the combined forces will be fighting in this forward trench until our Arab nation awakens and joins him.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Successful action has a number of alternatives. The Palestinian rebellion now aims at Israel and Zionism and the world forces that support them. Let us suppose, God forbid, that Israel is able to deliver a military blow and liquidate the military presence offering resistance in southern Lebanon. What are the alternatives then?

[Abu 'Ammar] Above all, I challenge Israel to liquidate it by a military blow. It tried in the 8-day war when it sent a third of its army to the battle after Brzezinski said "farewell to the PLO." Do you remember the end of Brzezinski's statement when he said there must be a dialogue with the PLO. Israel tried in the last 15-day war, in which they said we will put an end to the PLO, and in the 11-month war when they said we will humble the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people. What happened? I am not going to repeat here the saying "O mountain, a wind does not shake you...." but these are the facts, for a blow that does not kill me strengthens me....

A few days ago, I received a communication through a Voice of Palestine broadcast from one of our lion cubs in the South, from young men, in which they said (this is recorded): Tell Abu 'Ammar we are not only the victory generation, as they say of us, but the victory generation that will change the Arab World. Imagine lion cubs in the rebellion saying this. This cub, who can resist him--Begin? Reagan? Sharon? They struck once, twice, three times, four times and we have been here for 18 years. Why did I write down the verse we spoke about at the beginning? For 18 years, blows have been raining on us from above and from below, from the north and from the south, from the east and from the west. What has happened? The rebellion intensifies day by day. Why? Because it is not a rebellion of the Palestinian people alone. The combative personality of our Arab nation is now the combative personality of the Palestinian rebellion, just as the Algerian personality was at one time the combative personality of the Arab nation. And just as Christianity was once the combative personality of our nation, the combative personality of our Arab nation is now the Palestinian rebellion.

There is something in Greek history called the Hydra. Whenever its head was cut off, several heads grew in its place. One day, we were leaving Amman. Many said the Palestinian rebellion is finished and some began to philosophize. They said we have to go underground. Others looked and said we must go into hibernation...and further?

[One of those present]: An "oil slick."

[Abu 'Ammar] An "oil slick" and other slogans which you know and some of which we recall now.... We said only one word...just as 'Umar ibn al-Khattab said: "O shadow of the mountain...the mountain" the mountain of the old man...mountain of the old man. The mountain of the old man with its snows is better for us than many of the hearts in the Arab World and, from it, the Arab rebellion completed its mission. This is the long march of which Mao Tse-Tung spoke. We have been on a "long march" for 18 years...this march no one can hold back. This is the rebellion in which students, children, in the occupied territory turn stones into bombs. No one can put it down. This rebellion in which Karim Khalaf and Bassam al-Shak'ah take part, no one can put it down. This is the rebellion in which Mulham and al'Qawasimah agreed to come back to enter prison in order to return to the occupied territory, no one can put it down.

Abu 'Ammar stopped speaking for a few moments before continuing citing examples. He then said 230 persons arrested were interrogated, detained, and imprisoned in Israel. There now remain 24,000 internees and prisoners under investigation who suffer torture prior to the municipal elections in the occupied territory. We haven't announced as yet that the mayors of the municipalities who came are in the PLO. At that time, one of them asked me: Who does the PLO represent in the occupied territory? I told him: I will not reveal to you now except those 24,000 prisoners. There still were 24,000 prisoners. I said to him the organization represents only those prisoners.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] I assume that some Arabs have independent views and political opinions that do not agree closely with those of the PLO. What is the justification for this Arab blackout or for the little support given by the Arabs to those uprisings that we see and hear about against the occupation in the occupied territory?

[Abu 'Ammar] Undoubtedly, the Arab World is very neglectful of our people in the occupied territory. We proposed a plan for increased financial support at the summit conference in Amman and later on at the Fez conference. The Arab citizen in the occupied territory pays 38 kinds of taxes. He pays them to the military regime, that is, to drive them out. Nevertheless, during the military regime and in the shadow of this pressure, we founded for them a university in Bir Zeit, Najah, Bethlehem, and Gaza. Isn't this so?

We believe the assault is not only a military assault but a cultural one as well. We did that despite the little Arab support for the occupied territory. This is (because) the Fez conference broke up and before it the Amman conference, which was cut short; and they did not decide to increase this support for our people in the occupied territory.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] There is an old desire among our Arab countrymen that the outbreak of this glorious resistance intensify and escalate in the occupied territory. Do you as the PLO have any idea of how to obtain real support for these activities so that they can increase in scope and effectiveness?

[Abu 'Ammar] To begin with, what is happening inside the occupied territory is a miracle. Do not forget that, despite all the repression and all kinds of coercion, another uprising, 7 weeks of civil disobedience in the West Bank and Gaza, continued until it reached Nazareth. Add the 24,000 prisoners. How many of our people inhabit the occupied territory? 1,100,000. Then, since 24,000 of them are in jail, what remains? According to the report of the international commission, 230,000 Palestinians were investigated, with 24,000 of them remaining in prison. What does this mean? Excepting children, the middle-aged, and the elderly, it means every adult has been brought in for questioning. Nevertheless, after the Fez conference, they carried out that splendid operation north of Haifa. Fedayeen military activities didn't stop for a moment. Yesterday, the Bedouins, our people in the Negev, killed one of the prominent collaborators with the occupation authorities because he was trying to facilitate the sale of their land in the Negev so that airfields could be built on it. Even now, every Palestinian refugee refuses goods and money, despite all attempts to exact the price of his land, which is confiscated now in the name of security, now in the name of training and resettlement.

Year of the Takeoff to...the Homeland

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] It has been known for about a year or so that you are expecting 1982 will be the year of a settlement or at least the beginning of a comprehensive settlement....

[Abu 'Ammar] I do not expect this.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Weren't you reported as saying that on a number of occasions?

[Abu 'Ammar] I said the first thing is that 1981 is the year of the Palestinian choice. I'll be giving a speech in a few days and I will not say now what I will call 1982. I am leaving this as a surprise.... But, in general, I believe 1982 will be a year of change not only in the Palestinian trajectory but in the Arab trajectory as a whole.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] What is the direction of the change?

[Abu 'Ammar] The political map in the Arab World will change. I do not mean the political geographic map. Rather, I mean the political map in its political sense.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] In order that the people and organizations too better understand, would you please explain to us what you mean?

[Abu 'Ammar] I say we will be confronted with many surprises, surprises naturally in the entire Arab World. We have already spoken about the possibilities in Lebanon and we will face tough times. Look, we have just begun to face these tough times. Do you remember my speaking about this situation 2 months ago? I said outbreaks would occur and an Israeli military operation would be launched. The massing of Israeli troops is now obvious.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] If 1982 is to be the year of far-reaching change in the Arab political map, what will the year be like for the Palestinian rebellion?

[Abu 'Ammar] It'll be the year of the takeoff of victory to the homeland...yes to the homeland.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Since you went to the United Nations in 1974 carrying a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other, with you working mostly for a comprehensive political settlement, one often had the impression that political action was prevailing over military action, whereas the opposite should have been the case, some believe. What is your reply to this?

[Abu 'Ammar] Of course, this isn't accurate. Before anything else I want to ask: What is military action? Military action is political action in a loud voice. This is the first thing. Second, I have not worked a single day for a settlement, but I am working to achieve the goals of our people. When I am working for the goals of our people, I must use every means at my disposal. The struggle is not with the gun alone...for our success in opening a college in the occupied territory, for example, I consider it a battle.

We are plunging into an election campaign in the shadow of the occupation and all the supporters of the Palestinian rebellion and PLO are succeeding in it.... This is a battle. The uprising in the occupied territory...this is a battle. Resistance to colonization is a battle. Resistance to expulsion and vacating the land is a battle. But let me tell you how many battles we have fought in the occupied territory. Suffice it to say, we are the only military force which the enemy cannot say it defeated. Finally, there is the 15-day war in the South and before it the war of attrition which lasted 11 months. So this rebellion is fighting on all fronts. The gun by itself is not the only way, but the gun combined with thought, faith, belief, and the people around it, this is the rebellion. There is another point I want to make, namely, political cooperation is different from political settlement.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] In that case, we are still in the stage of political cooperation?

[Abu 'Ammar] We are working with all the political givens around us. We are not fighting for the sake of war, we are fighting for the sake of peace.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Do you believe that Israel in the present international circumstances can undertake a major military operation in the South against the rebellion, against Syria, at a time when we see that the United States is trying hard to strengthen the cease-fire in the South, which was achieved for the first time between the two main parties to the struggle, the PLO and Israel, or is the massing of Israeli troops to which you referred before just for intimidation?

[Abu 'Ammar] Look, I want to tell you something. We must realize the United States is not making a serious effort to strengthen the cease-fire because there is no cease-fire as such. We in the Palestinian rebellion said we would halt military operations across the Lebanese borders as our commitment to the decisions of the Tunis summit. This is an important point. I do not believe that what Israel is doing is against American wishes. Although there may not be total American

agreement, there is at least agreement from one of the power centers or centers of authority in the United States. As we know, there are many decisionmaking centers in the United States; and Israel, which lives its entire life on the United States and its military power comes from it, absolutely cannot say "no" to the United States. And, if it says no, what will happen is like what happened after the Golan affair. Yesterday, they said they would cancel strategic cooperation; later they retracted and said: No, not cancellation but suspension. And then they said the whole thing was nothing but a tempest in a teapot. This is also what happened in connection with halting the delivery of F15s to Israel after it bombed Beirut and Bagdad. So the Americans said they would delay the delivery of the F15s for 2 weeks. Two weeks did not go by. After a week, they delivered the planes to them.

The American Attitude...Is Bad

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] The role of the United States in the regional crisis is among the most important given you have to deal with. What has been the result to date of this cooperation?

[Abu 'Ammar] Unfortunately, the American attitude is bad. It hasn't changed. At the end of Secretary of State Haig's meeting with some Arab ambassadors after the annexation of the Golan Heights, he said to them: "By God, we are unable to control Israel because it has become a formidable military power."

Good, I would like to ask: Who gave Israel this formidable military power? Who told Begin there is strategic cooperation and, consequently, Israel is now stockpiling supplies and weapons, perhaps neutron weapons, the neutron bomb, God knows best. Isn't it the United States who gives Israel the economic support that provides it with its daily bread, who? Isn't it the United States? And some of them say we can't pressure Israel or be responsible for its actions.

They don't read American history. What did Eisenhower do when he forced the two big powers and Israel to withdraw in 48 hours from Sinai and Gaza?

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] They are against American history.

[Abu 'Ammar] Against history.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Despite this persistent bad attitude on the part of the United States, do you believe continued cooperation with its role in the region is necessary, or is new attention being directed toward modifying the manner of cooperating with it?

[Abu 'Ammar] I'm a realist and I know that the United States is a great power. I can't deny it. Unfortunately, however, its attitude toward me...and toward the Arab nation is bad. It puts the Arab nation with its oil and its 150 million people and its strategic location on one scale and Israel on the other, but the Israeli scale is preponderant. It is necessary, therefore, that the Arab tone and Arab cooperation change, and I say (directing his words to the Arabs):

"I gave them sincere advice on the winding curve, but they did not try to understand the advice except on the morning of the following day."

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] How then do you explain the American's attitude toward the annexation of the Golan Heights?

[Abu 'Ammar] By God, their attitude toward the Golan Heights was like their attitude toward the annexation of Jerusalem. What did they do about the annexation of Jerusalem? We passed a resolution. What does the resolution do? Do we pass another resolution? They continue to nourish this hostile body with all manner of economic, military, diplomatic, political, financial, and technical life during the month in which Israel bombed two Arab capitals, Beirut and Bagdad. Has the delivery of the F16 planes been delayed 15 days?

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] It has been observed that this time the American attitude toward the Golan Heights annexation was much more emotional against the Israeli decision, wasn't it?

[Abu 'Ammar] My problem is that I am a man who deals with reality and not with feelings. I do not let myself be deceived by appearances, that is, I cannot sleep on silk as some Arabs do and say, by God, the Americans can pressure Israel. If we do not pressure them, no one will. Imagine, we cannot pressure even the Italians to change their position! We cannot pressure Cheysson to change his position. Cheysson visited the Arab countries and took their blessings and then went on to "give us a slap," which destroyed our honor, all of it. Yet, there is no Arab position on him.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Nevertheless, it is said contacts have been made to set up a new Arab axis with the Americans in the light of the reactions to the annexation of the Golan Heights and the Americans' attitude toward it...

[Abu 'Ammar] (interrupting) with the Americans? You have a dispute, with you acting both as the opposing party and as the arbitrator.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] And the investigation too. As they say, it is the way in which this axis deals with the difficult Palestinian factor or introduces this factor into the new equation.

[Abu 'Ammar] This difficult Palestinian number is not prepared to enter the labyrinth. At least it has its self-respect and I simply cannot laugh at my people or at my martyrs or at my cause or at my Arab nation. By God, the Arabs do not know their allies nor do they know their friends.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] As a result, everyone is hurt. But, in the near term, what is hurt the most is the Palestinian rebellion, isn't that so?

[Abu 'Ammar] But it is the difficult number. I say to you, and write this down, I challenge the view that there can be a settlement or stability or security in this region without us. There can be no settlement or stability or peace in this region by skipping the Palestinian factor. We are the difficult factor in the Middle East equation; Egypt with all its might "tried", along with its pharaoh

al-Sadat. What was the result? They reached an impasse and those who killed al-Sadat are "zealots." They did not call themselves the Sinai group or the Arish group or the Suez group. Rather, they named themselves the "extremist group." The people do not want to learn.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] So do you believe annexation of the Golan Heights will continue as the annexation of Jerusalem has continued?

[Abu 'Ammar] I hope it will not continue as the annexation of Jerusalem has continued. I hope that.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] What do you expect militarily as a result of the annexation of the Golan Heights?

[Abu 'Ammar] You know that we in the Palestinian rebellion have carried out a general mobilization. You know that yesterday, in spite of the school vacation, we dressed up the students and made them carry guns for me. I announced the mobilization in order to be able to confront all possibilities and show our muscle, whether it is a matter of showing our muscle or launching a military campaign...and "he urged the faithful to do battle"...and "God would not entrust people with something unless they were able to do it." By God, I will fight until my revolver is empty. This is the greatness of this Palestinian people and the valiant Lebanese people in the forward trench. They are the heroes who are performing this miracle before the daily bombardment to which they are subjected from the sea, land, and air.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Then you expect battles or war to break out with the Israelis in Lebanon?

[Abu 'Ammar] Of course...of course.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Despite what is said that this region is now completely in the grip of the two giants?

[Abu 'Ammar] No, this is not correct. On the contrary.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] What is the truth then?

[Abu 'Ammar] The truth is this Israeli tool is still in American hands and is being used to force the region to its knees and endure all the plots against it. It is a scarecrow to frighten us for more American bases, for more of an American presence in the region, and for more American influence in the region.

Saudi Plan...Proposals

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Do you believe the Soviet reply to this American political and military attack is commensurate with this attack or is it still only at the beginning, and how do you envision the future?

[Abu 'Ammar] I'm not in a position to speak for the Soviets. It seems that al-Sadat was mistaken when he said 99 percent of the cards are in the hands of the

United States; it meant that he did not fully understand the international game or the international map.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] After your last visit to Moscow, you began to serve as an intermediary with Saudi Arabia to restore relations with the Soviets. At the same time, the Saudis were working to persuade the Americans to make contact with the PLO. So which of the two efforts has the best chance of success?

[Abu 'Ammar] No this is not so. When I met His Majesty King Khalid and Prince Fahd, I was told about their plan and I made some observations and points about it. I welcomed it and I still do. It is not so much a plan as a series of proposals. They said it can be modified and discussed with give-and-take. It was assumed the plan would be discussed at the summit and not at a meeting of foreign ministers. One of the mistakes made was that these proposals were taken up at the foreign ministers' meeting because it was agreed that it would be discussed at the summit meeting only in order to make some modifications, which we spoke about during our Arabian tour. It was among the points that I said would have to be referred to an international meeting in which the two superpowers would participate. Immediately afterward, Prince Sa'ud Fasal issued a statement in which he said such a meeting was inevitable.

As for the second matter, it is not accurate, for the other issue you asked me about with respect to the United States and Saudi Arabia was not so.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Then in what framework...

[Abu 'Ammar] (interrupting and digressing). On the contrary, it means I wish (it). And I am not talking to the Saudis alone but to all the Arabs, oil Arabs, and non-oil Arabs, I say to them: How long are you going to wait before using your influence to pressure the Americans to accept the Palestinian reality and Palestinian rights and deal with the PLO? I am the one who is demanding that.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] We left the Fez conference with the Arab situation inducing much despair and despondency as a result...

[Abu 'Ammar] (interrupting) The result of the pain which reached the point of extreme distress at one time.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] And then suddenly the Arab stand after Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights began to move in a new direction after President al-Asad made a trip in the hope of overcoming the negative attitudes that were manifested at the Fez summit. How do you see the future Arab course of action?

Fez--Setback for the Palestinian Rebellion

[Abu 'Ammar] What happened at Fez was undoubtedly a blow to Arab solidarity and a blow to the Arab rebellion. A meeting of Arab foreign ministers is to be held on the fifth of this month. I do not know what happened after President al-Asad's visit to the Gulf states because he will wind it up in North Africa and because I haven't as yet met with President al-Asad or with the parties he visited. I hope this trip will provide further impetus to reuniting the Arabs.

There is no doubt that the challenges the enemy is imposing on us is making us more alert, that is, they are giving us an electric shock that will make us forget some of our regional problems in order to confront the popular cultural challenge represented by this Israeli-Zionist power which threatens our culture and our existence. We must understand the meaning of the bombardment of the nuclear reactor in Iraq. It was an American-Israeli decision that prevents our Arab nation from entering the age of new technology and the atomic age.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Why do you consider the Fez summit fiasco to be a setback for the Palestinian rebellion?

[Abu 'Ammar] Because one of the wrappings that covers the Palestinian rebellion and from which it draws its strength, in addition to the cataracts of blood which have not ceased flowing since we burst forth, is Arab solidarity. This is in addition to the support we get from the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries, and the friendly countries, including the USSR and the socialist countries, even China and the African countries and recently Greece. There's a saying that a series of small victories adds up eventually to a large victory.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] You said before and during the Fez summit, and you still say, you support Prince Fahd's proposals...

[Abu 'Ammar] (interrupting) We welcome...I welcomed and I still welcome Prince Fahd's proposals, which I regarded as a basis for a comprehensive settlement in the region and a point of departure as well as a point of departure from the observations I made on Prince Fahd's plan.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] On what grounds, then, did your associates in the Palestinian arena attack the plan so violently, with some of them going so far as to attack you personally and call you a traitor?

[Abu 'Ammar] First of all, no attack bothers me. I did not come to the position I occupy by 99 (percent of the votes). I came as the result of a democratic election in an arena that embraces democracy. One of the miracles of the Palestinian rebellion is the democracy of the gun, which is the toughest of democracies. But we ourselves are satisfied with it. Everyone has the right to say what he pleases, but once a decision is made, it is binding on everyone. I am not leading a flock of sheep. On the contrary, I am leading revolutionaries and free men willing to die for the cause. This is the source of my strength. When we made the decision to accept a cease-fire, all abided by it and whoever dissented was called to account for his dissent. Therefore, as far as Fahd's plan is concerned, everyone has the right to express his opinion of it. I announced my position and perhaps some of them were extreme in their views. Naturally, these individuals do not have the right to go too far in their opinions or be excessive. But this is due to some ideological considerations.

What Fahd's Proposals Face

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] A little while ago you said Prince Fahd's proposals were to be discussed at the summit.

[Abu 'Ammar] I said there was an agreement that they be discussed at the summit.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] What happened to change the situation so that the proposals were presented to the foreign ministers?

[Abu 'Ammar] Even now that you asked me, I tell you I don't know. This is the question I put to those who postponed the summit. I was against the postponement and favored continuing its work. So we see now that the discussions confirmed the soundness of my guess. It surely was a mistake to postpone the summit and we are now paying the price for it.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] If the work of the summit had continued until the end, what would have happened?

[Abu 'Ammar] There are many things we skipped over and ignored.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Such as the Golan Heights?

[Abu 'Ammar] I can't be absolutely certain of that, but I do say there were many things we skipped. Suffice it to say, the European Common Market met after the Fez summit and did not say a single word about the Middle East crisis. And then came Cheysson's statements and other things.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] After the American's attitude toward the decision to annex the Golan Heights, many Israeli leaders said the decision was made in order to block an American scheme for Israel to withdraw from the Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war. What information do you have on that?

[Abu 'Ammar] By God, I am not one of those who believe in simple things. These are small simple things released by some Western information organizations. We pay the price for them every day with our blood, with our companions, with our dear ones. Therefore, we are now allowed to make a mistake. And we are not allowed to dream rosy dreams that have no roots in the earth. No, we must know reality.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] It seems from all this that you do not see on the horizon, near or even far, peace in the region?

[Abu 'Ammar] No... How can I see peace when I hear the drums of war beating? I said one day that, even if Fahd's plan were accepted as is, two wars would be needed for it to be implemented. This enemy who says my borders extend from the Nile to the Euphrates and every day nibbles away new Arab land is no longer satisfied to normalize relations with Egypt, he wants the waters of the Nile.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Under these circumstances, what do you think of the new Egyptian President Husni Mubarak?

[Abu 'Ammar] He is being tested now and has to answer the questions of the Arab nation. I am asking him and waiting for his answers. He is on trial and being challenged.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Do you expect the Israelis will withdraw from Sinai?

[Abu 'Ammar] I do not offer many hypotheses because it depends on the international situation and on the American activities and the plan the United States is relying on in the region. How will it deal with President Mubarak is a complicated question. But whether the Israelis withdraw or not, what will happen in Sinai is that the Israeli occupation will be replaced by a European-American occupation. The Egyptians, I know them well. I was once an Egyptian army officer. I studied in Egypt and lived in Egypt. They used to say: either complete evacuation of the British forces or violent death. They were but several English in the Suez Canal. But what will they say about this formation that will be found in Sinai tomorrow? The Egyptian people are a noble people and they will be unable to tolerate it.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] We must, Abu 'Ammar, take up the subject of Syro-Palestinian relations and the difficulties they provoke from time to time. Despite all that the relations keep encountering, do you still complain of some rifts and negative attitudes?

[Abu 'Ammar] There are those who work to magnify these plans and rifts and negative attitudes, but we must be alert. It is up to the Palestinian rebellion primarily and the Syrian side secondarily to be bigger than those who are trying to toy with this strategic relationship.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] You recently started a dialogue with President Ilyas Sarkis about supplementing his work. Will this supplementation be soon? And what are you aiming for?

[Abu 'Ammar] We (President Sarkis and myself) have agreed to keep in touch with each other, with Prince Wazzan, and with other officials, i.e., with legitimate Lebanese authorities.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] Other than the study done on halting operations from the South, is there any intention to readjust the Lebanese-Palestinian relationship, especially since it has become an issue affecting everyone?

[Abu 'Ammar] I said when the Arab Committee met to continue at the ministerial level that we are ready to offer this committee every opportunity to facilitate its work and implement its decisions, and we still feel this way. I believe a stable and tranquil Lebanon united of people, land, government, and committed to the Arab cause is a strong Lebanon that can help us in our cause. Lebanon is a land in which I am a guest and when it trembles, I tremble.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] But, O brother Abu'Ammar, there are those who still say it is not in the interest of the Palestinian rebellion to resolve the Lebanese crisis and achieve Lebanese harmony because that would be at the expense of the existence of the rebellion.

[Abu 'Ammar] Whoever says these things the least of what can be said of him really is that he is biased, or rather it is an attempted machination. I have no desires or aims in Lebanon. I only have one thing in mind--Jerusalem. By God, if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand on the condition that I change my mind about Jerusalem and not be content with Jerusalem as

the capital of the Palestinian state and this is everything. You must understand that no one is content to live as a refugee even in paradise.

"My country, if I were distracted from it by my mind
My soul would struggle with my mind for it."

What would you think if the capital of this country were Jerusalem?

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] After your last successful visit to the Soviet Union, the Soviets have been saying the Palestinian state is imminent. This explains their decision to open a Palestinian embassy in Moscow. What do you say?

[Abu 'Ammar] The Palestinian case is now on the international political map and I'll keep saying this until Begin, Sharon, and Cohen understand me.

[AL-MUSTAQBAL] This means the Soviets are more optimistic than you are when they say the Palestinian state is imminent?

Abu 'Ammar said in a loud voice as he stood up: Definitely. It will inevitably come. No doubt about it. It is only a question of time and we'll meet in Jerusalem, God willing.

* * *

At this late hour of the night, Abu 'Ammar left for Damascus to attend a meeting of the central council of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

5214

CSO: 4404/271

CABINET DISCUSSES DRAFT BUDGET, OTHER ISSUES

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 82 p 1

[Article by Fu'ad al-Shadhili: "New Budget; Subsidy Set at 2 Billion Pounds; Implementation of 95 Percent of Plan's Projects; Open Day for Every Minister to Meet With Citizens"]

[Text] The Council of Ministers agreed at its meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din the state's general draft budget for the new fiscal year.

The most important features of the new budget are embodied in the following:

Dealing with the increasing budget deficit by setting this deficit at no more than 1.4 billion pounds through the following measures:

Setting the subsidy at 2 billion pounds.

Curtailling government spending and reducing it without affecting the public services.

Streamlining imports and enhancing production within the framework of the five-year plan which begins in 1982-83.

Creating new work opportunities amounting to 400,000 opportunities annually.

Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of state for information, has stated that the investment plan is based on replacement and renewal projects aimed at enhancing the production capacity.

The appropriation rate for the projects included in the 1982-83 plan amounts to 95 percent [of the costs] in order to produce a quick yield and work opportunities and to enhance the production capacity.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs, reviewed the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and reaffirmed the Egyptian position previously declared by President Mubarak on the need to stop the bloodshed and to settle the problem peacefully through negotiations.

He said that Egypt's position is clear, namely the position of non-aggression and non-seizure of the territories of others by force.

The Council also reviewed the position of the group of Arab countries calling themselves the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front which have considered Iran the victim of aggression and have tried to keep Egypt far from the Arab arena.

The Council further reviewed the developments of the situation in Chad.

The Council also reviewed the internal situation. Hasan Abu Basha, the minister of interior, has stated that the elements of the internal front's stability are clear as a result of the clarity of Egypt's domestic and foreign policy, of the prevalent democratic climate and of the frankness characterizing the government policy concerning the economic course.

Supply situation: Ahmad Nuh, the minister of supply, affirmed the availability of stores of essential goods and reviewed the measures taken by the ministry to secure the supplies needed for the month of Ramadan.

The minister also presented a comparative study on the rice and vegetable crop and on the quantities supplied during corresponding periods in previous years. The study shows that rice prices have stabilized and that there has been an increase in the quantity of rice supplied [to the markets].

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din requested that a group of the ministers be present at the Democratic National Party headquarters daily according to a set schedule so that the party leaderships and members may be able to meet with the ministers in open discussions.

The Council of Ministers has also approved a number of bills, namely:

The importers register bill which regulates registration in this register. The bill states that an individual wishing to include his name in this register may not be a member of the People's Assembly, Consultative Assembly or the popular councils and may not be engaged in political action as a fulltime occupation, unless he has been engaged in importing prior to becoming a member or fulltime political worker.

The bill to regulate commercial representation and a number of commercial middleman activities.

8494

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REASONS FOR FAILURE TO ATTRACT EUROPEAN INVESTORS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 May 82 p 5

[Article by Hasan 'Amir: "Why Has Experiment of European Investment in Egypt Failed; European Capital 'Graves' Public Sector"]

[Text] In a week, a conference to boost European investments in Egypt will be held in Alexandria. The chances of success by the conference are limited by all criteria, despite the preparations and efforts exerted, despite the expected speeches, despite rosy media reports, despite brilliant reception parties and despite memorial photographs abounding with smiles.

The reasons for pessimism are, to put them frankly and briefly: The European capital's options for investment and for success outside Egypt are numerous and diverse and we have not yet found the formula acceptable to the Europeans and acceptable to us.

We are trying to attract direct investments: Monies, expertise, technology and markets. They think first, second and third of profits.

They are thinking of short-term high-yield projects and we are thinking of long-term investments.

Without Colors

The latest report by the Investment Authority presents the picture in black and white.

The report says that the total investments of the market [EEC] in projects approved by the Authority have amounted to 257.2 million pounds and the total capital in projects that have begun their production is 84.1 million pounds and in projects under implementation is 61.5 million pounds!

The investments already operating are divided as follows: 41.9 million pounds in banking, tourism and service projects, 10.9 million pounds in livestock and construction and 31.1 million pounds in industry, including 12.2 million in the oil sector.

Early Birds

The percentage of European investments is shocking. Three years ago, this percentage amounted to 10.6 percent of the total foreign investments in Egypt whereas it has now declined to [percentage indistinct].

The reason is simply that the open-door economic policy has been coupled with a tremendous growth in the import activity and Egypt has come to be known in the business society as the "client who pays \$8 billion annually for foreign purchases."

This figure tempts any bank in the world to have a presence in this market. Banks are the businesses that make the highest profits from the foreign trade transactions--namely from credit facilities, remittances and so forth.

In fact, Egypt has attracted many banks from France, England, Germany, Greece and other countries.

We were overjoyed with this early march and called it, according to Dr Wajih Shandi, the "early birds"--the birds that fill the world with singing to wake up people to a new day and new horizon. But the birds deceived us. They landed on the grain heap to eat and fatten themselves and forgot their role!

Impossible Condition

The Egyptian public sector has tried to perform the role of early bird and has tried to attract European firms to set up joint projects and to transfer their expertise and technology.

But the public opinion has been shocked by the European conditions, the essential condition being that the public sector turn into a second-class partner with limited influence, effectiveness and powers.

This did actually happen when Ideal Company tried to go into partnership with the French Thomson Company. It also happened in al-Nasr Car Company's experiment with Volkswagen and in the Steam Boilers Company's endeavors with the (Stein Moeller) Company. The manifestation was repeated with al-Nasr Glass Plants when the company tried to embark on partnership with a British firm.

It was also repeated in the endeavors to set up Egyptian firms with the participation of Michellin, Renault, Peugeot and other companies.

All engagements were broken before the wedding could take place.

The few cases of marriage [between Egyptian and foreign firms] are still the target of bitter criticism by the press and the Workers Federation. Of these cases, we will mention the case of the General Batteries Company and the British Chloride Company and the case of the Railroad [Authority's experience] with the International Company for Railway Cars.

The experience is certainly bitter. But insofar as the Europeans are concerned, it is legitimate and blameless.

Crossroads

Why?

(Klaus Boeller Beck), the head of the EEC Office in Cairo, says:

"You know that insofar as the European Group is concerned, Egypt holds top political importance among the Middle East countries. We support Egypt politically in all its steps. Your country is a vanguard and a leader.

"As for the economic relations, the situation is relatively different.

"The European governments deal with Egypt economically at the same level of importance with which they deal with it politically. These governments use their individual and collective powers to allocate economic aid for your country.

"The political powers of these governments have no effect and no influence on the European private sector, be it companies or individuals. These governments cannot pressure or compel anybody to invest in any part of the world."

The European private sector has its interests and its inclinations. It thinks of profit and success first and flies with its capital to any place where it can make a profit, regardless of political interests.

Let us think with the mentality of the European private sector of this sector's priorities and of the opportunities available to it. These opportunities are numerous. The United States, for example, guarantees the best chances of success and profit, followed by Canada and Australia.

In the Third World, Singapore [comes first, followed by] Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina, the Caribbean countries and, finally, the Middle East countries.

Even French Minister

These statements have been confirmed by Michel Jobert, the French minister of foreign trade.

I asked the minister at a press conference last March: "Does the socialist French Government, which controls a large public sector, plan to boost the direct French investments in Egypt?"

He answered: "No. The government does actually own the public sector but the sector is subject to an independent management over which the government has no control. We cannot pressure anybody. Perhaps we can persuade people."

I have asked Isma'il Ghanim, the Investment Authority chairman: "Why have the European investments declined to this extent?"

He answered: "I believe that the Authority did not perform in the past one of its most important roles. The Authority is supposed to perform the role of advocate and booster of investments, to prepare complete studies on the investment opportunities, to design projects and invite others to finance them and to also secure partners. We are now overcoming the failure. We have actually prepared 106 projects and we have reached agreement with five European expertise houses to propagandize them among European investors."

"The result has been good. The expertise houses have received positive responses from 150 companies and these companies have been invited to a conference to be held in Alexandria to discuss the details."

Other sources of the Investment Authority accuse the commercial banks and the Egyptian public sector of failure. The private [sic] sector has preoccupied itself with commercial businesses which the officials have been eager to advertise every now and then.

The commercial banks have not only preoccupied themselves with commercial businesses but have also (been misleading insofar as negotiations with Europeans on setting up production projects are concerned).

Only the business banks have tried seriously and have succeeded despite their limited financial capabilities.

Virtue of Modesty

The coming conference will produce nothing fundamental. We may succeed in attracting limited investments in one, two or even 10 companies. As for the rest, greetings and goodbye.

We cannot abandon the public sector. The head of the state is against this, the Workers Federation is against selling the sector and the public opinion objects to it. Only a very limited number has tried to discuss the production projects or to acquire production rights.

The European capital has numerous and diverse opportunities available to it and Egypt cannot embark on a competition to create the opportunities which please the European investor.

The question is: Can Egypt be modest and say that we want from the Europeans the right to produce certain commodities only and to ask for their partnership in some projects that yield quick profits, such as construction firms and contracting firms specialized in complex technical projects?

Can we think of other modest alternatives so that we may succeed?

SINAI'S HOPES, ASPIRATIONS, PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 31 May 82 p 3

[Article by al-'Azab al-Tayyib al-Tahir and Muhammad Husayn 'Abd al-Mu'in:
"Sinai After Its Return: Problems and Hopes; Belonging Is Fundamental Issue;
Long Repair March for Transportation and Utilities; 200,000 Cultivable
Feddans That Find Nobody to Cultivate Them; Tens of New Apartments That Find
Nobody to Fill Them"]

[Text] The Sinai has been fully restored to us and Egypt is in a holiday mood nowadays. These must not be mere words in a song that reflects our joy over the return of the Sinai to the homeland. These words must turn into action on the real arena--action embodying this joy.

Now that more than a month has passed since the restoration of the Sinai, AL-'UMMAL presents this picture from inside north and south Sinai. What are the problems and how do we deal with them and what are the aspirations and how do we realize them?

In Sharm al-Shaykh, the town finally restored to us after a long wait, we have interviewed a number of South Sinai officials. They spoke frankly, clearly and patriotically. The occasion was a visit by the People's Assembly Youth Committee. The mission of this committee was not just to familiarize itself with the youth problems but with all the problems.

Belonging Is Fundamental Issue

'Abd al-'Aziz Habib, the head of the governorate's Social Affairs Directorate, said:

"The fundamental issue to which we must devote major attention is the issue of belonging--the belonging of Sinai's native population to Egypt. They must be made to feel that they have really returned to their homeland by making the actual national presence visible. The Israelis, for example, posted some sort of a practical nurse, trained on simple curative procedures and equipped with a radio, in every population gathering. Whenever an emergency developed, this nurse contacted the officials who would proceed to fly the patient into Israel immediately. Israel did this in its own interest primarily. It wanted labor and this labor had to be healthy to work energetically under all conditions.

"Second, Israel wanted to implant in the minds of the Sinai population that it was working for their good. This was a kind of propaganda aimed at misleading the population and making it believe in the virtues of occupation, especially since the Sinai has been returned to Egypt while Egypt has been suffering from economic difficulties. It is also important to erase the image Israel has implanted in the mind of the Sinai population--namely that Israel is a state capable of turning ashes into gold. We must prove that the homeland, Egypt, is capable of turning rocks into gold. In this regard, I demand specific steps:

1. Restoring the bedouin values which Israel has been able to change toward the worse--a change which has encouraged girls to smoke and has allowed places of vice to spread. These values can be restored through information, cultural and religious caravans [teams] and through the dissemination of religion.
2. Introducing the system of producing families to the population gatherings.
3. Advancing subsistence aid of 15 pounds [monthly per family] for a period of 6 months from the time of withdrawal and providing greater work opportunities than those secured by the Israelis.
4. Providing medical services and water facilities and setting up consumer cooperatives [that sell] at reasonable prices."

Specialists Needed for Sinai

Dr Sa'id Muhammad Sa'id, the head of the Health Directorate, said:

"I demand that a helicopter be secured to fly emergency cases to Cairo until [medical] specialists are made available, considering that we are experiencing a severe shortage of specialists and that there is only one assistant specialist who comes for a short time and then departs quickly. However, I promise that a hospital will be built next year at a cost of \$800,000 with a capacity of 38 beds. This will certainly solve many problems."

How Do We Cultivate 200,000 Feddans

Engineer Kamil Murad, the deputy director of the South Sinai Agriculture Directorate, said:

"The present problem is how to cultivate 200,000 cultivable feddans in al-Qa' plain? The cultivation of only 600 feddans has been started. I demand that these areas of land be reclaimed quickly and distributed to the youth.

"I also demand that youth work camps be organized to contribute to sheep, cattle and poultry breeding projects in the governorate. Self-sufficiency must be realized in these spheres. Moreover, there is a big variety of medical herbs to be gathered. This requires the efforts of the youth to whom we will offer rewarding incentives."

Ahmad al-Rifa'i, the head of the Manpower Directorate, said:

"We have been able to appoint 150 youths [to jobs]. We have overlooked the prerequisite of the ability to read and write because most of them cannot. But there are 500 youths and proper work opportunities must be provided for them. They were working with the Israelis and it is our duty to provide them with these opportunities. This is why I demand that mobile training centers be set up so that they may travel among the population centers to provide training on the skills we need to rebuild and develop the Sinai, such as construction and building skills, electricians and smelters. This should be done instead of importing such skills from the valley, which is costly financially. My problem is summed up in the lack of the means of transportation."

Mosques Also

Rif'at Ja'far, the representative of the Ministry of Awqaf, said:

"I demand that attention be paid to the mosques and that their numbers be increased in the bedouin population centers to entrench the religious values. The preachers must be of the sort who are capable to respond to the Sinai population. I believe that the national work camps are a suitable solution for the problem of rebuilding and repairing what Israel had destroyed in every place it has turned over to us, even though we did pay Israel compensation for what it has left behind."

Individual Effort in Youth Directorate

The head of the Youth Directorate said:

"The directorate is working with individual efforts. We lack many specialists. In most cases, I work by myself whereas I need 50 workers at least. The ministry has secured 47 slots for me but nobody has come yet. But in cooperation with the other directorates, we are carrying out some work. Youth athletic and religious teams have been visiting the population centers in the valley and in the heart of the desert. Supply, health and agricultural teams have also offered their services to the residents of these valleys. It has been decided to purchase video sets for every town as a temporary substitute for television."

Eighty Million Pounds Supplied by State

'Abd al-Rahman Khattab, the head of the Finance Directorate, said:

"The cost of the installations left behind by the Israelis is 16 million pounds. The state has given us fivefold this sum, namely 80 million pounds. The National Investment Bank has begun to finance the governorate's plan. But what I want is serious efforts on the part of the workers and of the youth in particular. I also demand that the youth be assigned to set work programs, both qualitatively and in terms of duration."

'Abd al-Mu'ti 'Abd al-Karim, the People's Assembly member and the head of the team which visited South Sinai recently, has underlined the interest of the state agencies in Sinai and has reviewed in particular the Sinai five-year plan for youth, pointing out that the total sum allocated for youth projects is 2 million pounds.

Shafiq Hashish, a People's Assembly member, has also demanded that the citizens be attracted to Sinai and that work opportunities be created before thinking of plans and of appropriations.

Complaint of Bedouins

I have met with a number of bedouins who have complained of the ban on sea fishing. They have said that the sea is a basic source of livelihood for them. They have also complained of the unavailability of drinking water for their livestock, demanding that water (troughs) be built for their camels, some of which are dying of thirst. They have also demanded that the prices charged by the consumer cooperatives be reduced in a manner compatible with their incomes. Some of them have also demanded indirectly that an end be put to the condescending way in which they are dealt with and that they be treated as Egyptians.

The driver of the bus which carries passengers from and to Sharm al-Shaykh complains of the road and of its potholes and demands that this road be widened and repaved.

Once again, the Sinai has been restored. But what is important is that we safeguard it as a precious part of the heart of Egypt.

In North Sinai: New Apartments Remain Unoccupied

With the joy of the return and of peace, AL-'UMMAL spent several days in North Sinai Governorate and has met with its inhabitants and with their hopes, joys and demands. This was the first meeting with them.

We met with the citizens in Bi'r al-'Abd, a Sinai town located in the center of the governorate at a distance of 60 kilometers between al-'Arish and al-Qantarah. Al-Hajj Ibrahim Zaki, a merchant, said: "We have experienced the joy of peace after suffering the pains of war and migration. During the war, I emigrated to al-Tahrir Province where we lived in the hope of returning after liberation. God has willed that we return to our homeland after a long absence to turn a new page, hoping for and seeking reconstruction and accomplishment."

Regarding the town of Bi'r al-'Abd, he said that the town in its entirety is considered a big commercial market where local and imported goods are sold. The food security companies have begun to open branches in the town and the governorate has begun the construction of numerous new houses. The town has a bakery and several clubs, in addition to a youth center.

A few months ago we were suffering from poor television reception, which has begun to improve now, God be thanked. We have television, refrigerators and gas ovens in most of our homes.

'Abd al-Mun'im Suwaylim said: "I ask the officials to prepare and pave al-'Arish-al-Qantarah road speedily because we are actually experiencing maximum difficulties with this road, especially at the entrance to al-Qantarah where the excavation and expansion works have caused the canal water to seep and turn the road into a swamp difficult to cross."

In the village of Rummanah, Musa Ibrahim, a worker at the post office, said: "A youth club has been founded and equipped with all kinds of recreation facilities. We have also moved to the new houses." Musa Ibrahim added with a laugh: "You may be surprised to know that most families have refused to move to the new houses because they are accustomed to living in the old ones. Even though the problem of many youth in the other governorates is the problem of housing, in Sinai the housing is available but we cannot find occupants."

Ibrahim also brought up the problem of water in the towns and villages. Most of the citizens depend on well water or water received from Isma'ilia by tankers. He urges the officials to build a water plant speedily and to construct a water network.

'Abd al-Mun'im Khalil, a worker in the Arab Contractors, said: "Before the 1967 war, there was a railroad line which was dismantled to be used for the Bar-lev line. Why don't the officials consider rebuilding railroads to link the towns and villages of North Sinai."

In the village of al-Nujaylah, citizen Muhammad Salah Juwaydah said: "One of our problems is electricity. The power plant turns off the current early in the evening. This deprives us of a lot of things."

Juwaydah added: "One of our biggest problems is the problem of al-Qantarah-Bi'r al-'Abd road on which numerous accidents take place due to an accumulation of sand on the road, narrowness of this road and because of the numerous potholes it contains."

On al-Bardawil Lake, AL-'UMMAL visited the fishermen. Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid said: "Most of us in this area live on fishing and we are undoubtedly participating in the food security revolution."

"When the lake is developed, the catch will be doubled, God willing."

Interview With North Sinai Governor

At the end of our tour, we met with Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the Governor of North Sinai, who said: "I address an open invitation through AL-'UMMAL to all of Egypt's youth to participate in rebuilding and developing the Sinai. I have reached agreement with the Higher Youth and Sports Council to set up youth camps during the summer holiday so that our youth may be able to participate in building a part of their homeland."

Maj Gen Yusuf Abu Talib added: "We have begun to set up numerous projects here and we need the efforts of our sons. The governorate opens its doors to Egypt's sons and will supply them with all means of comfort and luxury, in addition to housing and rewarding wages."

The governor further added: "We have begun to prepare and pave al-Qantarah-al-'Arish road in which work is in progress."

The public sector companies have opened branches in most of the governorate's towns and villages, including al-Nujaylah, Rummanah, Bi'r al-'Abd, Baluzah and al-'Arish. The food security companies have also set up kiosks in these towns, thus contributing considerably to making most goods and requirements available to the governorate's citizens.

The North Sinai governor also said that the oil companies have begun to prospect for oil in the Sinai desert and the indications are promising. Proposals for utilizing the Sinai sand are being considered. These projects will provide thousands of work opportunities.

He further added: "We have set up a summer resort on the beach to host tourists and have prepared programs on the history of the governorate and the bravery of its citizens. We have completed the construction of several new housing towns and have supplied them with the means of transportation, with food supplies and with water. I have agreed with Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur, the chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, to link al-Qantarah West with the east with more than one ferry. Consideration is also being given to constructing a tunnel similar to the one in the south."

Concluding the interview, the governor said: "With our joy over the full restoration of the Sinai, every citizen in the governorate lives on the hope and goal of building, realizing accomplishments and producing under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Here is an open invitation to the Egyptian youth to contribute to building the Sinai instead of seeking futile emigration. Our country needs the efforts of its sons."

8494

CSO: 4504/352

AL-NASR CAR COMPANY CHAIRMAN REVIEWS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 31 May 82 p 4

[Article: "Engineer 'Adil Jazzarin: Al-Nasr Car Company Realizes Production Increase; Worker Wages Raised 37 Percent This Year; Local Buses for Public Transport Authority to Bolster Egyptian Economy"]

[Text] Al-Nasr Car Company has celebrated Mayday. The celebration has included honoring the company's model workers and a review of its accomplishments. These accomplishments include the production of new types of cars, tractors and modern buses in order to bolster the national economy and to entrench the car industry in Egypt as the number one industry.

Engineer 'Adil Jazzarin, the chairman of the company's board of directors, pointed out that the company's planned target was 140 million pounds but "we realized 154.4 million pounds, through efforts and cooperation, as follows: The mass transportation plants contributed 83.9 million pounds, the passenger car plants contributed nearly 54.4 million pounds and other goods and spareparts produced nearly 16.1 million pounds."

Wages Raised by 37 Percent

Regarding wages, Engineer Jazzarin said: "During fiscal 1980-81, the wages rose by 37 percent over the preceding year. The average individual income rose from 1,214 pounds to 1,748 pounds annually and the average individual income in al-Nasr Car Company rose by 44 percent[sic]. The number of workers promoted in the same year was 1,136 workers or 36 percent [of the total number of workers]."

Look at Future

Engineer 'Adil Jazzarin added: "The general goal is to realize a work volume of 170 million pounds. By 30 April of this year, 130.5 million pounds were realized and we estimate that an additional 50 million will be realized in the months of May and July [as published]. By the end of the current year, 180 million pounds will have been realized, with a surplus of 10 million pounds over the target.

"God willing, a work volume valued at 200 million pounds will be realized in 1983."

Trucks and Buses

Engineer Jazzarin also said: "We have introduced for the first time the assembling and production of all kinds of heavy trucks with a load capacity of 12 tons and of the types 6x6, 6x4 and 4x2. We have also produced heavy buses and the workers have nearly completed manufacturing this bus for the Public Transport Authority so that it may serve the citizens. The Authority has concluded contracts for a large number of buses, exceeding 500 buses, to be delivered over a long period.

"As for the car [Nasr] 127, orders for more than 45,000 cars of this type have been placed in one week. This is a record.

"We are proud of the foundation of the additional insurance fund through full cooperation between the [appointed] members of the Board of Directors, the Board's elected members and the union. This fund provides enormous insurance privileges to al-Nasr Company Workers, secures their future and the future of their families and gives them additional pension and an affiliation gratuity upon their retirement.

"On the occasion, we all honor our model workers. This year, worker Muhammad al-Bushi Nashawi won the honor of the model worker throughout the company."

Next Year's Production

Concluding his address, Engineer 'Adil Jazzarin spoke of the company's forthcoming production, saying:

"The plan will be as follows: Expansion of truck and bus production to reach 5,500 medium and heavy trucks and 1,000 medium and heavy buses in the first phase. We will then realize a production of 8,000-9,000 trucks.

"As for cars, the first phase calls for expansion of the production to reach 30,000 cars and then 70,000 cars, with the emphasis on the [Nasr] 127 model or any future alternative. This phase also calls for setting up a new plant for the production of agricultural tractors, with a production capacity of 6,000 medium-size tractors.

"We will soon complete foundation of the new company to set up the new plant. Studies are currently underway on projects to produce car spareparts. Al-Nasr Car Company will meet the country's need for agricultural tractors with a capacity of 60-70 horsepower."

Participating in the celebration were Sayyid Jum'ah, the director of moral guidance, and 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Azzam, the chairman of the unionist committee, and all the workers and their families--all of whom are full of hope to raise production for our great nation, Egypt.

BRIEFS

EMPLOYEE BONUSES--Nearly 300,000 government, public sector and local government employees will get incentive bonuses in the fiscal year beginning next July. The appropriations for incentive bonuses in the new budget amount to 20 million pounds, with an increase of 3.5 million pounds over the current budget. The incentive bonuses are dispensed to 10 percent of the workers of each unit who contribute to improving and raising production, to developing the system of work and to performing their services and job tasks ideally and to conducting scientific research that serves the agencies in which they work. The worker affairs committee in each ministry, public sector company and local government unit will begin in July preparing the list of names of the first batch of those who have earned this bonus, amounting to 150,000 workers. The incentive bonus will be paid next July or August. The Central Organization and Management Agency has instructed the various worker affairs units to complete the lists of those entitled to the incentive bonus within a maximum period of 3 months as of the date to which the workers become entitled to this bonus, else they will lose their right to collect it. [Text] [Cairon AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 May 82 p 1] 8494

CSO: 4504/352

'ETTELA'AT' REPORTS KILLING OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

GF101350 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Jun 82 p 4

[Text] Urumiyeh--The residents of the Solmas District clashed with armed members of the defunct Democrat Party and killed five of the counterrevolutionaries.

The IRNA correspondent, quoting the northwestern public relations operations headquarters, says: In this clash which took place on 21 June, one of the residents of Hasanabad village was martyred. According to the same report, during the purging operations in the (Shapiran) District of Solmas, three more bases were set up in the area by the brother troops, guards and the gendarmerie to ensure the safety of the people of the area.

Attack by Armed Unlawful Elements Repelled

On the other hand, an attack by armed unlawful elements on two bases of the combatants of Islam in the villages of (Jandar) in Solmas and (Hamamlar) in Urumiyeh was repelled by the heavy fire and vigilance of the dynamic combatants of Islam, and the attackers were compelled to flee. The public relations department of the northwestern operations headquarters while announcing this news to IRNA further added: This clash took place between 21 and 22 June, and the combatants of Islam did not suffer any casualties. No precise information is available on enemy losses.

Discovery of an Antipersonnel Mine

Sanadaj: An antipersonnel mine which had been laid by the counterrevolutionaries on the highway between the villages of (Kani Sanan) and (Darreh Tafi) in the district of Marivan was unearthed and defused.

Residence of Red Crescent Chief Attacked

The residence of 'Abbas Khan (Zorza), chief of the Oshnoviyeh Red Crescent, was attacked at 2400 on Thursday night by armed unlawful elements using a RPG-7. According to a report citing the district governor of Oshnoviyeh, despite the fact that the landlord and members of his family were asleep in bed, there was fortunately no casualties when the RPG-7 was fired. Only the

windows of the house and of some neighboring houses were shattered, and two large holes were made in the walls of the house. It may be recalled that 'Abbas Khan (Zorza) is the uncle of the martyred student Fattah (Zorza), who was killed by the counterrevolutionaries after suffering 1 month of imprisonment.

Request for Political Asylum

One of the armed unlawful elements affiliated with the defunct Democrat Party surrendered himself to the main Islamic center in the western district in Urumiyeh and requested a certificate of pardon. His name is Yusef 'Omriyan, and he is a resident of (Hesar Balagh) in the district of Urumiyeh. At the time of his surrender he had in his possession a British-made firearm and three bullets.

CSO: 4640/395

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' REPORTS ON HYPOCRITES' ARRESTS

GF131204 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Jun 82 p 10

[Communique issued by central headquarters of Islamic Revolution Committee--
date not given]

[Excerpts] The selfless guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Raja'i Township, with the help of the Islamic Revolution Guard Committee of Tehran, after investigation and discovery of "team houses" in a big operation called Shahid Raja'i, succeeded in shattering 80 percent of the infernal hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in Karaj. In this operation around 50 important members of the hypocrites organization who were being pursued for about a year and a half were arrested. Those arrested were in charge of the military, preparations, financial, information and safety departments of this organization. One of the hypocrites killed himself with cyanide pills before being arrested.

The names of some important hypocrites arrested are as follows:

1. Dr Gholamhoseyn Rashidi, chief for preparations and opportunities [regarding operations] in Karaj.
2. Seyyed Gholam Hoseyniani, alias Nasrollah, chief of army and employee cadres in Karaj.
3. Salah Mardani, alias Ayyub, chief of the forgery department in Karaj and an active member of the army cadre.
4. Behruz Nasiri, alias Kazem, chief of the educational department in Gazvin and Karaj and chief assistant of the army cadre of Zanjan.
5. Mahnaz 'Alami, alias Ma'sumeh and Sadiqeh, chief of the army cadre of Tehran and Karaj.
6. Soraya Hayat-Davari, alias Marjan, chief of many army teams in Tehran and Karaj.

Also during these successful operations four "team houses" related to these lackeys were discovered and destroyed in Karaj and Tehran. A large quantity of important interorganizational documents were discovered. These contained information about many different plans to inflict blows on the Islamic revolution forces.

In relation to this big victory one "team house" was discovered by the guards of Islamic revolution committee in Tehran and three professional troublemakers were killed. Various types of G-3, grenades and important information belonging to the organization were discovered and collected by the selfless guards.

CSO: 4640/395

COMMENTARY ON EFFORTS TO CRUSH OPPOSITION

GF111740 (Clandestine) Seda-Ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] These days there is talk about the trial of Qotbzadeh and 12 others who have been accused of an attempted coup d'etat and attempted murder of Khomeyni and other top officials of the Islamic Republic and are under arrest. For some time now, a number of military personnel have also been arrested, tortured and consequently marked for death by the organizations of the Islamic Republic.

Although the ruling clique in Iran provides daily bloodshed and murder in order to keep the people busy, every now and then it needs a new show. It also wants to speed up the crushing of its opponents. The trial of Sadeq Qotbzadeh is also a part of this design by Khomeyni. There can be no possible positive or negative answer to the question of whether Qotbzadeh, the one time first chief of the radio-television organization of the imam, was really trying to liquidate his former benefactor. We also cannot trust what the information organizations, courts, police or security organizations of the regime have to say. On the other hand, the person of Qotbzadeh and his political games were so full of duplicity and deceit and so erratic that it is rather difficult to form a definite opinion. And most important, one should not express a definite opinion in this matter in deference to the demands of justice. However, one important point to note is that the Fada'iyān-e Eslām faction in the ruling party of the Islamic Republic would like to make Qotbzadeh an excuse or a means to expand the scope of that group and to neutralize all its real and imaginary opponents. In the matter of the so-called coup d'etat, no group has escaped their wrath. We in the society of spirituals saw what they did to Ayatollah Shari'atmadari because this man believed that governing is not the job of religious leaders and because he is also against all bloodshed and oppression. This itself poses a great danger for the clergymen who, under the canopy of Velayat-e Faqih, consider lawful all kinds of interference in the lives, status and faith of the people.

For this very reason the Iranian militarymen have also been imprisoned, for the members of this anti-Iranian and inhuman organization which Khomeyni has founded tremble at the thought of a national army. This is why all the

freedom-loving political, nationalist and progressive groups are being attacked. For the people who have turned our country into a prison, the idea of freedom and national independence and the demand for freedom, nationalism and progressive thought are intolerable.

Therefore, the trial of Qotbzadeh is in fact a great design which, apart from having anything to do with the person of the accused or the truth of the accusation, is really aimed at smothering the sounds of the opponents and preventing any future opposition.

CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTS NEQAB STATEMENT

GF101702 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text of communique by the National Resistance Movement of Iran--NEQAB--on the second anniversary of the NEQAB uprising]

[Text] On a day like this, on the morning of 9 July 1980, one of the bravest nationalist uprisings against the bloodsucking and usurping regime of the mullahs was bloodied. A group of the promising youth of our beloved homeland, Iran, fell into the claws of the executioners of this regime. Following a short trial in the unjust Islamic courts of Ruhollah Khomeyni, they were sent in front of firing squads. The 9 July uprising was the realization of one of the aspects of the nationalist movements against the world-encompassing [jahanshomul] and Iran-destroying [regime] of the mullahs. This was an uprising which clearly specified its goals at the time of its inception in its first communique of May 1980, issued in Tehran, and which chose the road of the great Mosaddeq and put the seal of approval on the brave activities of the noblest legitimate son of Mosaddeq, Dr Shapur Bakhtiar.

The promise of these self-sacrificers for the freedom and independence of Iran--to the last moment and in the unjust Islamic courts of Khomeyni--to the Iranian nation will continue to remain firm in the struggle of the Iranian nation. The National Resistance Movement of Iran honors the memory of these promising children of the homeland who reddened the soil of Iran with their pure blood and lost their lives for the honor and independence of Iran and reaffirms their commitment to continue the nationalist struggle until the complete liberation of Iran from the claws of the imperialist puppet mullahs and their hated Tudeh'i allies.

The lowly and hated regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni must know that none of the nationalist fighters will rest until they clean the homeland from the filth of gang of homeless ruffians. Long may the memory of the fighters who lost their lives for the freedom and independence of Iran last, may Iranian independence be eternal. Long live freedom. Iran will never die.

[Dated] 9 July 1982, the National Resistance Movement of Iran.

CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO WARNS ARMY ABOUT NATURE OF REGIME

GF101816 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Jul 82

[Text] Musavi-Ardabili, talking to a number of armed forces personnel in Mashhad today, said: The war with Iraq is a war with the hellish forces of the world and we will continue it.

According to our correspondent in Khorasan, Musavi-Ardabili has said that the power of God is unlimited and the enemies want to create a rift between the ruling group, the army and the nation. Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Ardabili added: We will not rest until the fall of the Ba'th Party in Iran.

We of the Free Voice of Iran tell the nationalist armed forces that the mullahs in their increasing mood of despair and their weakness are trying suicidally to prevent their being toppled by an army and national uprising. This is why they are using the war with Iraq as an excuse. We inform the nationalist armed forces and the proud Iranian nation that the power of the Almighty is infinite and the uprising of the army and the nation will finally topple the usurping mullahs by reliance on the same infinite and eternal force. Khomeyni, his mullahs and guards are better off going to the fronts themselves if they wish to continue the war with Iraq. The army and the Iranian nation side by side with all the nationalists abroad are increasing their readiness for a victorious struggle to topple the antinationalist, usurping the army-murdering regime of the mullahs.

The victory that the Ardabili mullah is referring to in the war with Iraq is nothing but the expansion of the wave of blood and fire throughout the entire region, and the Iranian nation, the army and the Iranian freedom-seekers will not allow the anti-God and anti-human mullahs to continue and expand their criminality.

CSO: 4640/395

CLANDESTINE RADIO SAYS IRAN LIKELY TO INVADE IRAQ

GF131819 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT
13 Jul 82

[Text] World news agencies, quoting TIME magazine published in the United States, report that Iranian troops stationed on the Iran-Soviet border have moved toward the Iran-Iraq border. TIME, referring to a discovery by a (?U.S. surveillance satellite), writes that eight divisions of Iranian forces which were stationed on the Iranian border with the Soviet Union have moved toward the Iraqi border so they can begin an attack on that country. On the basis of this report, military experts opine that it is possible the Islamic regime in Iran may launch its (?attack in the not too distant future). The Soviet Union has also assured the Islamic regime of Khomeyni that in such a war it would support the Iranian forces [words indistinct]

Meanwhile, THE LONDON TIMES in its latest issue writes that Khomeyni's Islamic regime may begin its latest attack on the last day of the holy month of Ramadan, which would fall on Friday. The regime has given that day the name "Jerusalem Day."

On the basis of what TIME wrote, the attack by the Khomeyni regime on Iraq is expected to materialize in the near future.

TIMES writes with regard to the attack on Iraq that strong differences have appeared among the commanders of the Iranian army. The majority of the commanders oppose an attack on Iraqi territory. However, fearing that by expressing such an opinion they may be dubbed pro-Iraq by the regime, they are abstaining from expressing their views openly and are concealing their opposition to the idea from the public.

Political circles believe that Khomeyni's Islamic regime, because the Iranian soldiers are against an attack on Iraqi territory, may make use of the revolution guards to execute the attack plan on Iraq.

Meanwhile, a number of political observers believe that the regime of the Islamic Republic, because (?Iraq) has armed its combat forces with the most modern weapons, may face defeat. Very recently Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced that [words indistinct]. When the Iraqi president was (?collecting) this type of weapon, military experts believed that with the new type of weapon which Iraq now possesses Iraq may (?cause heavy losses to the attackers during the first assault) and may take a heavy toll of the reserves behind them.

Opponents of the Khomeyni regime believe that Khomeyni considers that his security lies in continued war and creation of new crises. Because this regime has failed to solve the various problems facing the Iranian people, it will continue the war [words indistinct]. Opponents of the Khomeyni regime within and outside Iran believe that Iran's real enemy is the clergymen's regime which through its stupid policies has provided causes for escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran.

(?The opponents of the Khomeyni) regime have called upon Iranian armed personnel and Iranian military forces to turn their guns toward the bloody, oppressive, medieval ruling regime. This regime, by adopting warmongering policies, aggressive actions which they pass off under the label of [words indistinct] as revolution, wants to destroy Iran completely. The opponents of the regime have also called on the Iranians who live in the war-affected zones of Abadan, Ahvaz, Khorramshahr, Dezful and western regions to immediately vacate their towns so that they can escape any possible damage during the warmongering actions the Khomeyni regime may take with regard to Iraq.

The Free Voice of Iran expects the nationalist armed forces and the brave Iranian Army to disobey the orders of the warmongering regime, the regime which has nothing to show except slogans against eastern and Western imperialism. In the interest of the territorial integrity and independence of Iran, they should join with the national resistance movements and armed groups opposing the regime and so defeat the destructive designs of the ruling mullahs regime which are inspired by world imperialism and Zionism.

CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO CLAIMS POW'S FORCED TO DEMONSTRATE

NC141250 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 13 Jul 82

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent reports that to "justify" Iran's imminent attack against Iraq, officials of Khomeyni's Islamic regime forces hundreds of Iraqis residing in Tehran as well as Iraqi prisoners of war to the streets to stage demonstrations and recite slogans against Saddam Husayn's regime. Meanwhile, the hezbollahis and the regime's revolution guards order these people to demand that Iran attack Iraq to overthrow the present Iraqi government.

According to our correspondent, for the third consecutive day several prisoners of war and other Iraqis residing in Tehran took to the streets and hezbollahis and armed revolution guards listened to the slogans being chanted by these people who, under the force of guns and bayonets, demanded an Iranian attack on Iran and the downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime.

The Voice of Iran correspondent adds that it is expected that these games will continue for 4 more days because, on the eve of the Iranian forces' attack on Iraq, the sly mullahs have named this week as Iraq in bondage week.

Meanwhile, cameramen of Iran's occupied television network have been assigned to prepare documentaries on these contrived marches and to send the films via satellites to Iraq so that the Baghdad government can harass the families and relatives of the (?demonstrators). Informed sources have stressed that this savage act is one of the clerical regime's plans for creating chaos within Iraq. As about 40,000 Iraqi prisoners of war are in various Iranian camps, it is expected that many families in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities will be facing grave danger.

Another report on the same topic states that the regime's propagandists and brainwashing experts pay daily visits to camps, where Iraqi prisoners of war are kept, to deliver (?heated) speeches and encourage the prisoners to cooperate with the revolution guards in attacking Iraq. It is, therefore, expected that in Iran's next attack on Iraq, a large number of Iraqi prisoners will be fighting next to the hireling revolution guards against Saddam Husayn's regime.

CSO: 4640/395

LIBERATION FRONT STATEMENT ON ADVANCE INTO IRAQ

GF141825 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT
14 Jul 82

[Text] The National Front for Liberation of Iran led by Dr 'Ali Ameni, which met recently in Paris with 15 groups opposing the Khomeyni regime attending, issued a communique today on the attack launched by the Khomeyni regime on Iraq. The communique says that the mad regime ruling Iran, which has been keeping the lid on the people's problems in Iran and has been covering up the righteous agitation of the people against the creation of false crises by the regime, has now started another war at a time when the Iraqi Government had already announced its decision to withdraw its forces and accepted the Iranians' right to defend their country. The 12 (?January) resolution of the UN Security Council and the recommended cease-fire adopted by a unanimous vote show the amount of attention the world's political circles have been paying to the causes and effects of this devastating war. The world's reaction, and especially that of the states in Middle East which feel threatened, is quite expected in view of this attack by Iran.

By announcing renewed war, the Iranian regime is casting doubts on Iran's motive in fighting, which has allegedly been to recapture what belonged to it. The ruling regime, by starting a war whose results are hardly calculable, has once again started a process that could produce thousands of dead and tens of thousands of wounded with devastation to cities, all because the regime wants to continue its existence for a few more days and continue its rule over the people by paying such a great price.

The statement of the National Front for the Liberation of Iran says that the people of Iran, who have honorably defended their country in the best way they could and who will continue to do so in the future, know well that the losses in human lives and property which the aggressive policies of the regime may bring are so great that they will be paying the price for several generations to come.

The Khomeyni regime and its friends are trying to set every corner of the Middle East on fire so that they can provide a better foothold and excuse for the imperialist powers to infiltrate the region. The National Front for Liberation of Iran, in view of its everlasting support for the people and armed forces of Iran and the need to defend the territory of Iran announces that it is the job of the leaders to learn wise lessons from all wars. However, these usurpers of leadership in the Iranian Government by fanning the war want to continue their rule for another few days at the price of all the losses and destruction. They thus are making the Iranians lose any chance they might have for peace.

IRAN

BUSHEHR FRIDAY IMAM ISSUES MESSAGE ON WAR

GF140845 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0750 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpts] Compatriots of Bushehr Province, the aggressions of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq created calamities in the cities of the land of epic, faith and holy crusade for 22 months. They destroyed our cities, bloodied the brave children of Islam and did not pity our youth or elders in their dastardly acts. Today is a day when our nation is passing this bloody gorge of defense to teach the aggressive regime a lesson. Dear citizens and zealous people of Bushehr Province. [words indistinct] and the moments of destiny, the moments of destiny for a nation which has decided to stand on its own feet and resist all the pressure of the world's ruffians.

While offering congratulations for this great victory, we hope that the Almighty on the eve of the night of Badr [the night before the death of imam 'Ali] will ensure our destiny with the final victory. We want this great nation and the Bushehri compatriots to gather in mosques this noon and tonight and pray to the Almighty for the liberation of all the oppressed from the claws of all the oppressors.

I, together with all the God-loving people of Bushehr, will hold a prayer and thanksgiving ceremony in 'Attar congregational mosque and invite all the people of the city to attend the ceremony so we can give more strength to the fighters so that they may be able to liberate Jerusalem from the claws of the Zionist enemy after hailing imam Hoseyn--God bless him and all his scion--in Karbala. May God will this.

[Signed] Seyyed Mohammad Madani, Bushehr Friday imam.

CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

SHAHPUR BAKHTIAR VIEWS IRANIAN ATTACK

GF151938 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Text] Shahpur Bakhtiar, leader of the Iranian resistance front, has issued a statement on the latest developments between Iran and Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran's aggression against Iraqi territory. Dr Bakhtiar says:

Brothers and sisters, in a world where all free states consider aggression and aggressive wars and expansionism wrong and condemn and equate them with crime, the destructive mullahs regime, contrary to the aspirations of the Iranian nation and the resolution passed by the UN Security Council and all such proposals for a peaceful end to the war forwarded time and again by Islamic and international bodies, has started a new adventure. (?It is being condemned) for every aggression it makes, whatever excuse or reason it may produce in justification.

The regime of destructionists, which has always resorted to aggression against the aims and objectives of the Iranian nation to achieve the aims of its evil revolution, has with its latest action, which has no justification, placed Iran in the position of aggressor. The first adverse results it will bring will be to injure Iran's right to collect reparations for the war and cause countless further losses in property and lives to the Iranian nation.

The Iranian nation does not want to sacrifice its young men in crises created by the mullahs regime. Moreover, this adventurism may rally regional antagonism against Iran. The price will finally be paid by the Iranian nation. If this bloody war continues, it will destroy and devastate the whole region. This will benefit only the world powers.

As since the beginning of the war with Iraq I have condemned aggression against Iran of the Algerian resolution of 1975, I also condemn this latest aggression by the bloody and cruel mullahs regime. Iran has never had any need for war or aggression against any country. Iran has never had a need to draw its sword against its neighbors and colleagues. In fact this aggression is aimed at helping the continuation of this bloodthirsty regime and perpetuating this shameful regime, which considers its life to be in continued crisis, war, bloodshed and trouble within Iran and in the region. Iran will never accept this.

[Signed] Shahpur Bakhtiar, Paris, [date indistinct]

CSO: 4640/395

IRAN

RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ISSUES ANTIREGIME COMMUNIQUE

GF181223 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Communique issued by the National Resistance Movement of Iran--date not given]

[Text] In connection with the mullahs' aggression against Iraq, the armed forces of the regime have crossed the international boundaries and have encroached on Iraqi soil. Similarly, Ruhollah Khomeyni has [words indistinct] in his speech said that the object of this aggression is to topple the Iraqi regime and establish a regime in consonance with its own wishes in that country.

The National Resistance Movement of Iran considers such a sanguinary conflict merely an opportunity for imperialist exploitation, destruction of the country's (?resources), massacre of the youths and troops of both sides, homelessness, poverty and hunger. The National Resistance Movement of Iran, therefore, on the basis of the above obvious reasons, condemns, in the light of aggression against Iran [words indistinct] in the past, the interference and aggression against the soil of the neighboring country and the violation of its international boundaries.

The National Resistance Movement of Iran believes that the only motive for escalating the war between two neighbors, was, from the very beginning, the adventurism of the mullahs' regime and their indifference to the international norms, which demonstrates their tendency to interfere in the affairs of their neighbors for the sake of the so-called export of the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the National Resistance Movement of Iran is of the opinion that until the roots of these expansionists are eradicated from the base, there is a (?grave) danger to the region, to the world inspite of these world-devourers who have imposed this satanic power on the Iranian nation.

[Signed] The National Resistance Movement of Iran, Paris, (?14) July 1982.

CSO: 4640/395

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION IN MAZANDARAN--According to our reporter in Mazandaran, operations have been carried out with the active support of the citizens of the region against the regime of Khomeyni in the past 2 months. In these operations, especially in (Tareh Sar), Tufiq (Sharbati), a security official of the regime and one of the spy hezbollahis, was killed. Three guards units, each with between 22 and 30 men, were also annihilated. The Jangal strugglers killed the commander of Ramsar guards together with six of his guards and colleagues. They also wounded the deputy Ramsar governor. In the operations of the armed fighters in the forests around Shahi, three of the commanders of the Qazi Kolah guards were killed. In an attack against the headquarters of the Qazi Kolah guards and mobilization department, carried out with a variety of heavy and light weapons, all the guards of the area with annihilated. Only the members of a group who did not participate in the operations were able to escape. All the Jangal combatants returned to their bases safely. According to the same report, in the attack against the Qozi Kolah guards, one of the strugglers was martyred. [Text] [GF111449 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Jul 82]

FIGHTING IN LEBANON--Fakhr Ruhani, the chief of Khomeyni's den of espionage in Beirut, confessed yesterday that none of the 700 guards dispatched to Syria from Tehran have participated in any of the clashes in Lebanon. He said that they have not even entered Lebanon. Following such a confession, the rumors formerly aired by a number of imperialist mass media concerning the presence of some of the guards of the Khomeyni regime in Lebanon have been refuted. Khomeyni's ambassador in Beirut voiced these remarks while complaining to the Lebanese Government. He accused the government [words indistinct] in the discovery of the wherabouts of the first secretary and three kidnapped members of Khomeyni's embassy in Beirut. The four members of the Khomeyni den of spies in Beirut were kidnapped by the Lebanese Phalangists. Their radio in a short reference to them accused the embassy of Khomeyni's regime in the country of intervening in the current crisis in the country and of illegal activities. The radio avoided making any comment to reaffirm or deny the kidnapping of Khomeyni's spies by the Phalangists. [Text] [GF101825 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Jul 82]

QOTBZADEH TRIAL--The Khomeyni regime is (?procrastinating) in regard to the trial of Sadeq Qotbzadeh. The Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Iran wrote that while the government mouthpiece ETTELA'AT has announced that Qotbzadeh's trial is beginning in a military tribunal today, the government news agency has stated that the trial of Qotbzadeh has been postponed and a new date for it has not been announced. According to the same news agency, the decision for the postponement of Sadeq Qotbzadeh's trial was taken with the approval of the mullah Reyshahri, the judge of the oppressive court of the Islamic regime's armed forces. Today, radios, news agencies and television networks and the disseminating media of France published reports of the postponement of the trial of Sadeq Qotbzadeh and expressed the view that the Shar' court of the Islamic regime has without doubt postponed the trial for the reason that in connection with this trial, the name of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, the leader of the Shi'ites of the world, will come up. In fact, it will be the trial of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. As a result, in these days of mourning in the month of Ramadan [martyrdom anniversary of 'Ali, the prophet Mohammad's son-in-law and first imam of the Shi'ites], the sentiments of the people of Iran may be aroused, especially in the Azarbayjan region. [Text] [GF111900 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 11 Jul 82]

ANTIREGIME CIRCULAR--In the wake of rumors about the possible trial of his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, the Nahzat-e Peyrovan-e Shari'at in Tehran distributed a nightletter. In this nightletter, the followers and emulators of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, patriotic Iranians and opponents of the ruling clique are asked to mobilize their task forces so that they may put up armed resistance if the government plans to indulge in this social and religious treachery. In this nightletter the Nahzat-e Peyrovan-e Shari'at emphasized that all the followers of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari are considered members of the movement and that it is their divine obligation to (?rise up) in Jihad [holy war] against the infidel rulers who do not even fear God. It may be recalled that some time back, Khomeyni's guards transferred Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, his 70-year-old wife and his 1-year-old grandchild from their house in Qom to an unknown palace. [Text] [GF111810 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 11 Jul 82]

POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL SEMINAR--The seminar of the officials and representatives of political-ideological personnel of the Qazvin 16th Regiment has ended. The seminar was held on 9-10 July. IRNA reports that at this seminar the commander of the infantry troops, an official of the political-ideological department of the ground forces and an official of the political-ideological department of the vanguard station spoke on the need for further education of the Islamic Republican Army. At the end of the meeting, the participants met with the Ahvaz Friday Imam. At this meeting Musavi (Jazayeri) said that the world did not expect Iran's victory in the war because such a victory is a test and the world is ignorant of the power of faith and help of providence. [Text] [GF121758 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 12 Jul 82]

SPY FOR SOVIETS--According to a classified document, the contents of which have been published in a (?Jerusalem) newspaper, Mohsen Musavi, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic, has written to Ahmad Lavasani, political director-general [title as heard] of the Asian and African affairs division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the regime, that Ahmad Movahhedi, one of the regime's officials, is a Soviet spy. In this secret document he stated that during the 7 months that he was associated with this person he was positive that this person was actually working for the espionage organization of the Soviet Union through the (?services) of the Fatah organization. [Text] [GF121620 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 12 Jul 82]

KORDESTAN CLASHES--The Free Voice of Iran correspondent, (?quoting) Kordistan sources in Paris, reports bitter clashes between Khomeyni's revolution guards and the armed Kurdish resistance in various parts of the region. The Khomeyni forces are preparing to launch new attacks against the armed Kurdish fighters. During recent clashes between the Kurdish resistance and Khomeyni's revolution guards, dozens of revolutionary guards were killed or wounded. As a result hospitals in Tehran in Kordistan have been alerted. According to a (?spokesman of the liberation of Iranian People's Organization), during an exposition of the sins of the Khomeyni regime in its statements published in Paris, the organization called on nationalist forces to resist the massacre of their Kurdish brothers which the Tehran government is planning [words indistinct] and instead turn their guns toward the [word indistinct] criminals of the ruling regime and make them their target. In these statements they urged the military (?commanders) that if they are ordered to attack the Kurds they should join with the Kurdish armed resistance and prepare the way for ridding Iran of the [word indistinct] Khomeyni regime. [Text] [GF131843 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 13 Jul 82]

MUSAVI CABINET RIFT--According to a report by our correspondent, the cabinet of Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the regime of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic, will soon be reshuffled. There is a possibility that a number of ministers, including Defense Minister Colonel Salimi, will be dropped. Yesterday's meeting of a number of cabinet ministers with mullah Montazeri in Qom was in connection with this matter. A number of the ministers of Khomeyni's Islamic Republican regime consider that an attack against Iraq is also an attack against the being of the regime of Khomeyni and have threatened to resign. At the moment, a number of the same ministers have stopped going to their respective ministries. There will be a new minister for the post of minister of guards corps. This ministry will replace the Defense Ministry. According to our correspondent's report, with the formation of the Ministry of Guards Corps, the goal of the regime--dissolving the army--will be realized. [Text] [GF171912 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Jul 82]

KOHKILUYEH GOVERNOR APPOINTED--According to the Central News Unit, (Hadi Sadeqi), the newly appointed governor of Kohkiluyeh, has been introduced before taking office. The assistant director of the constructional department of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, officials of Islamic organizations and personnel of government offices were present at the meeting. [GF121816 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Jul 82 GF]

HAMADAN DEATH TOLL--According to the latest statistics, the number of martyrs from yesterday's barbaric bombing of the resistant and martyr-bearing city of Hamadan, reached 93. According to the Central News Unit, the number of injured from this beastly action of the Saddamist infidels, is 595. At the moment 109 of the injured are hospitalized in [word indistinct] hospital in Hamadan and 25 of them, who had more serious injuries, were taken to Tehran for further treatment. On the basis of the same report, efforts continue with the help of the officials and people, to dig out more bodies from beneath the debris. [Text] [LD171230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 82]

CSO: 4640/395

EXPERTS VIEW NEW IRAQ-IRAN WAR SITUATION

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 120, 29 May - 4 Jun 82 pp 20-22

[Article by Ilyas Harfush: "Why Hasn't Iraq Used Its Air Force Yet?"]

[Text] All of the data and diplomatic and military reports agree that the Gulf War, now in its twentieth month, has entered a decisive stage since the latest developments occurred over Khorramshahr (al-Muhammara). Iraqi forces regard the defense of this city a strategic matter for Iraq and the security of the Gulf, because any Iranian advance the Khorramshahr axis means an advance closer to the Gulf. This is something neither Iraq nor the Gulf states can allow.

The reports of the Western press point to something very important in the development of the Iraq-Iran war relating to the casualty figures on both sides. These reports notice that the Iraqi bulletins provide continuously casualty figures for itself and for Iran, whereas since the beginning of the war 20 months ago no bulletin has been issued from Iran indicating Iran's losses in the war. All of the Iranian bulletins speak about Iraqi losses in exaggerated numbers. Press reports based on official Iraqi sources have communicated that Iraqi human losses are estimated at about 20,000 since the war began. In return, Iraqi intelligence state that the losses of the Iranian forces since 30 April last exceed 35,780 killed, 400 tanks, and 31 planes. Iraqi intelligence says also that Iraq still has special-calibre arms that still haven't been used in battle. It envisions their use if the war isn't resolved by diplomatic means. French diplomatic information has confirmed these Iraqi bulletins to AL-MAJALLAH. It said that Iraq still hasn't used its air force to capacity, and that Iraqi government representatives have recently obtained from France spare parts and equipment for their Mirage jets. French sources observed that it is certain that the Iraqi air force will be decisive in the final battle if Iranian forces approach Iraqi borders. Iraqis admit that the present phase of the war is a difficult and decisive phase, and that the outcome of any forthcoming battles may decide to a large extent the direction of military developments at the front in the future. Although the Iraqis are totally prepared for continuing the war if Iran refuses to recognize Arab rights to the Shatt al-'Arab region, they are also ready to accept a peaceful, honorable solution. In fact, they emphasize that it is essential to arrive at such a solution.

After the latest military developments around Khorramshahr, Iraqi military sources say that Iran has withdrawn its armor from the front line west of the Karun river and north of Khorramshahr to positions in the rear. This followed an Iraqi attack on Iran's armor and its dispersion in more than one direction on the front lines and flanks, which was as Iraq planned. Muhammad al-Qasim, Staff General and Commander of Iraqi forces said in an interview with the Iraqi newspaper AL-THAWRA: "Iraqi armor which participated in the attack took some hits at the beginning of the operation. Iranian forces were forced to ask for help and reinforcements after it suffered heavy losses, due to which it lost its front-line positions." Iran admitted to the latest Iraqi attack, but it said that it confronted it south of the front at Khuzistan ('Arabistan) and that "Iraqi forces suffered gigantic losses." Most of the military operations conducted in the last three weeks occurred in the area of Khuzistan.

Last week, the political attacks between Iran and the Gulf states progressed further than merely positions taken toward the Iraq-Iran war. The rulers of Tehran called upon Gulf states' official to cease all aid to Iraq and "threatened" them. Official Gulf sources noted that Kuwait and Bahrain might be the two states directly meant by the Iranian threats. In reply to the Iranian attacks, Saudi radio launched a vigorous attack on the Iranian regime. This came at a time when Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, was visiting Riyadh and had handed the Saudi King Kahlid a letter from President Saddam Hussayn containing an invitation to attend the summit conference of non-aligned nations and presenting the developments of the war. In its broadcast, Saudi Arabia called upon all Arab countries to confront the Iranian threats, saying: "The Ayatollahs are committing a foolish mistake if they think that the Arab Gulf states are going to wait for Iran to carry out its threats." It added: "It is incumbent upon each Arab state that signed the Mutual Defense Treaty to do something to demonstrate its commitment to the treaty and to apply the provisions of the treaty. But Arab Gulf states have reached a high degree of military cooperation enabling them to teach any satanic power a lesson it will never forget." The Saudi broadcast ended by saying:

"The threats directed at Kuwait and at the Arab Gulf states constitute a dangerous example of the thinking of the epicures of Iran...who run after the ayatollahs and surrender the reins of power to them even though they contradict the teachings of Islam."

For its part, Kuwait's defense minister responded to Iranian warnings by emphasizing that his country is "militarily prepared to confront any power entering Kuwaiti territory." Kuwait also asserted that it is prepared to defend any country belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] encountering Iranian threats.

The Views of Experts

What are the dimensions of Iranian threats to the Gulf? How can military situation and the developments in the Iraq-Iran war be evaluated? What is the situation with respect to the regimes of Iran and Iraq? AL-MAJALLAH posed

these and other questions to experts in Middle Eastern and Gulf affairs, major Robert Elliot of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Dr 'Udhayd Duwaysha, vice president of the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

In his comments on the latest military developments, Major Elliot says that Khorramshahr is very important from a strategic point of view, and any attempt by the Iranians to reconquer it will prove extremely difficult. Elliot pointed out that the advances which the Iranian were able to make in recent weeks is due to the fact that the Iraqi forces are heavily concentrated around Abadan and Khorramshahr. In any case, it is hard to say that the Iranian forces succeeded in achieving a strategic advance. But it certainly made the Iraqi position difficult from the military point of view. Elliot made it clear that the fighting will now be confined around Khorramshahr, since the Iraqi forces are moving in a limited area. However, the state of affairs makes it difficult also for the Iranians to fight freely because the Iraqi forces are now heavily concentrated in this pocket of land and have concentrated in it four battalions of their best forces. For the Iranians to be able to confront them militarily means that they will have to concentrate twelve battalions to achieve the required balance of forces. Commenting on the military situation, Elliot said that Iran has now had the initiative for a month and was able to determine the time and place of attack, just as it was able to succeed to a certain extent in making some advances. But these successes were very costly. It is difficult to believe Iranian claims about the number of casualties they inflicted on Iraq, especially since Iran hasn't offered any reports on casualties and losses. In contrast, Iraq has presented an idea of its own casualties and losses along with reports on Iranian losses.

Major Elliot continued with a comparison between military developments on the al-Shash-Dezful front and the latest developments around Khorramshahr. He said the two situations are different. In the battle of al-Shash, Iraq re-organized its positions behind the Karoun river, and its losses were confined only to these positions. But now the situation is more dangerous. Since the beginning of the war, Iraq's sole objective was control of the Shatt al-'Arab. And Khorramshahr is on the Shatt al-'Arab. If the Iranians are able to recapture Khorramshahr, then the war becomes pointless. Elliot pointed out a very important strategic point: If the Iraqis had controlled Abadan from the beginning of the war, or with the progressive Iraqi victories, the war situation would be much different now, to the advantage of the Iraqi forces.

Elliot said that the change that has occurred in the war should not be regarded as a change in the balance of power. However, he said, this change was unexpected, and it is possible that even the Iraqi military leadership was surprised by it. This is because they had anticipated the breakdown of the Iranian army before the Iraqi advance. But the Iranian forces were able to develop their leadership at the officer level in the aftermath of the revolution. Also, the Iranian forces benefit from the war experiences and from the experience of officers who had been trained by the Americans. They combined with this the Russian and Chinese technique based on mass popular attacks, relying on heavy human concentration in wide-ranging attacks. The Iranian army has been reconstructed during the past 2 years at the level of troops, equipment and training.

The Iranian Situation

'Udhay Duwaysha offers an explanation from the perspective of the Iranian army. He says: At the beginning of the war with Iraq, the Iranian military machine was not operating in a very good or natural manner. There were differences and contradictions between regular forces, the Revolutionary Guards and the young fighting units which Iran was throwing into battle (al-Pasij). There was no reason to expect any military unity among these forces, especially since political and economic chaos was rampant. However, in the last six months the Mujahedin, the political opposition, was overcome. The religious men and the central authorities in Tehran are now more powerful. Also, the leadership at the front began organizing a new military plan which created a new kind of war. We can even say that the war which the Iranians are now waging is different from the one in 1981. The Revolutionary Guards have now become integrated and an essential, effective battalion at the side of the regular army units. This is what has strengthened the army's situation.

Duwaysha says that the length of the war played a positive part to the advantage of the Iranians. They have reorganized the ranks which were fragmented by the revolution. They also gained military experience with the progression of the fighting, although they paid an exorbitant price in human casualty terms for it. The process of partial advance restored military morale in the interior. Also, the war created new channels of communication between officers and troops, which had previously been cut off when individual soldiers viewed the officers as traitors and agents. Now, a year and a half of war has restored the Iranian army almost to the level it was at during the shah's reign. When this had occurred, the material potential and the difference in individual Iranians became very great. Duwaysha agrees with Major Elliot that if the Iraqis had continued advance after their past victories achieved at the beginning of the war, for example seizing Abadan or other strategic locations like Ahwaz and Dezful, their position now would be stronger. But no one knows why Iraqi military strategists didn't do so.

The Dangers to the Gulf

Major Elliot, the expert at the Institute for Strategic Studies, says in response to the danger posed by Iran to the Gulf that "There is no doubt that the Iranians will now view their situation from a position of strength." This will stimulate their "appetite" for the other states in the region, especially since they have always had, traditionally, ambitions there. He explained that there were "volunteers" from Egypt and Jordan at Iraq's side, but that there were no regular Egyptian forces. President Husni Mubarak had agreed to support Iraq with equipment and volunteers who choose to fight in the war, but he sent no regular military units. Major Elliot says, "I'm surprised at that. There are pressures on him in that direction, but such a step will be very costly."

Regarding the Iranian danger to the Gulf, Dr 'Udhayd Duwaysha says that the situation arouses concern. At the beginning of the seventies, the shah was claiming his right to Bahrain and the three islands (Abu Musa, and Greater and Lesser Tunb). He was also claiming Iraqi territory. There is fear that

Iran will regain its military strength and resort to the same language, because the situation is now worse than it was during the days of the shah. At least with the shah, one could negotiate and speak with him about national interests. But with the current regime that is not possible, because it is difficult to negotiate with a chaotic regime which does not rely on logic in its politics and decisions.

Duwaysha pointed out that domestic differences are still present in the body politic of Iran. But they can't be compared to the situation that existed 9 months ago, for example. The regime was able to overcome to a greater extent its opposition. If Khomeyni were to leave now, the question of his successor will be easier than in the past. Duwaysha said that, logically, the Iranians cannot undertake hostile action against the Gulf states because such a step would work against them. It would cause them to lose the support of other Arab countries like Syria and Libya, which are now siding with Iran. There is no doubt that they would feel that Iran is the aggressor in such a move. And Khomeyni's regime would lose whatever popular support it now has, and it would also lose a great deal of international support. It would no longer be able to obtain the economic aid which it needs. Therefore it would be logically impossible to embark on any hostile action in the Gulf. But the problem with Iran is that it does not behave in accordance with logic.

Duwaysha doubts that the war's developments will have any affect on the situation of the Iraqi regime, because the regime and the party enjoy popularity in Iraq. And the Iraqi president is implementing a very successful economic policy, a policy which also has had positive social effects because it has closed the gap between rich and poor. When the war ends, the Iraq's resources are directed at treating the domestic situation, the regime will certainly survive the war's aftermath. Duwaysha pointed out that Iraq is now spending around half a million dollars a month on the war, and there is no doubt that this amount will later be channelled into domestic development projects.

The Great Battle

Regarding the forthcoming battle, which observers expect will be the battle of Khorramshahr, 'Udhayd Duwaysha says that Iraqi forces have concentrated 40,000 troops around the city, whereas the figures for the Iranians at the front are between 60,000 and 80,000 troops. A great battle is expected around Khorramshahr. Duwaysha pointed out that the Iraqis have placed their best fighting forces on alert for this battle.

Major Robert Elliot also expects that the battle of Khorramshahr will be great and costly in terms of losses for the Iranians. Recapturing Khorramshahr won't be easy. Elliot said that the Iraqis will strongly defend the positions which they are in control of now, and it is unlikely that Khomeyni will agree to any peaceful settlement as long as Iraqi forces are present in Iranian territory.

As for Duwaysha, he said that the Iranian army's situation now is dreadful with respect to the central authority in Tehran. For that reason, the army will try to remain at the front for as long as possible so that it won't

return to the threats of its government and the demand for a "political price" for the war it is waging. This is at the same time a source of danger to the states in the region, because it means that whatever the result of the Iraq-Iran war, Iran is certain to activate new problems with the region's states so as to distract its army from the domestic situation and keep it preoccupied with military affairs.

9945

CSO: 4404/526

WAR SEEN TO INVITE SUPERPOWER INTERVENTION INTO REGION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 257, 29 May 82 pp 22, 23

[Article: "Storm on the Shatt al-'Arab]

[Text] Less than 24 hours after it was announced that Khorramshahr had fallen to the Iranians, an air battle took place over Lebanon between Israeli and Syrian jets.

The actual result of this battle, the downing of two Syrian jets, is not important. What is important is the political result that Alexander Haig linked to the Gulf war, in which he said: "There is an organic relationship between what happens on the Lebanese front and the battles raging between Iraq and Iran." In the speech given in Chicago, the American Secretary of State included the Gulf war in the Middle East crisis and described it as constituting a direct threat to world peace. His colleague Defense Secretary Weinburger indicated in a speech given in New York recently the gravity of the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that the Western nations will not tolerate this sort of destruction because it constitutes a threat to international security.

And when the Arab nations concerned with this conflict requested the UN, international organizations, the Arab League, and the Islamic nations to quickly intervene and mediate a halt to the war, it was on the basis of information saying that the two superpowers were headed toward the Gulf region because of the conflict there. The information had it that the Soviet Union and the United States are employing a process of lengthening the war so that under that pretext they might interject themselves into a region of power and vital interests. This caused one commentator to call the war a "Trojan war."

The Trojan horse is the symbol depicting the escalation of danger over issues whose outward appearances are one thing, and whose essence is quite another. It was from this perspective that Iraq criticized the United State's biased policy of escalating arms shipments to Iran through joint Italian-American companies and through other countries which could not sell one piece of weaponry without checking with Washington.

Defense Secretary Weinburger proposed during his last trip to the region that certain Gulf states allow for the facilitation of the Sixth Fleet's crossing, the idea being that a military presence would soon transform into bases. But the countries concerned rejected this proposal, saying that the Soviet threat is far removed from the region. Iran considers itself a member of the non-aligned nations. And, Iran's foreign minister promised Shaykh Zayid that Iranian forces will halt at the borders between the two countries that existed before the war. This promise was also officially given to Washington, Moscow, Libya, Syria and the UAE.

The question raised now has to do with what political decision will be taken in Tehran, and whether or not the Iranian army that attacked Khorramshahr is prepared to submit to orders by religious men! The question is whether the mullahs are ready to permit these forces to return to Tehran to play a new role, i.e., the traditional role played by every army that regards itself victorious.

What is important is that the results of the war not become hostage to U.S.-Soviet rivalry, thereby throwing the region into flux. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz has demanded that the region remain neutral and that all external powers remain removed from it so that the region's own people, who know what is best for it, decide their own destiny.

The involvement of the Soviets and Americans in Iran increases the likelihood of a wide-ranging war in the region. William Quandt, Director of Energy Program and National Security says: "There are no real political motives for settling the matter on the part of either side, nor are real efforts being exerted to halt military operations." In his opinion, "The war will go on throughout next year, and several other parties will be drawn into the conflict."

Clearly, the United States supports the idea of a protracted war because it is perturbed over Soviet political, economic, and military activities with respect to Iran, especially since Moscow has increased the number of troops concentrated along the Iranian border. Haig described it as the most dangerous development to occur in the Middle East.

It may be noted also that throughout the war, Iran's dependence on American weaponry from all sources has increased. It has also increased its reliance on economic and military aid from the Soviet bloc. Since it failed to sell much of its oil production during the first phase of the war, it has relied on bartering approximately half of its production (500,000 barrels per day) for goods and services from the Soviet Union, Rumania, East Germany and Yugoslavia.

This political and military bartering indicates that the two superpowers are attempting to exploit the war to expand their control and gain access to the warm waters of the Gulf and the oil wells. Since these objectives have not yet been realized, they will continue to nourish the conflict by way of new means and methods.

The steady escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war has renewed the fear of neighboring states of the storm that has hit Shatt al-'Arab, especially after Iran announced that its forces have reached the gateway of the disputed Shatt al-'Arab. This is the historical border that residents of the region do not wish to see a repetition of conflict and tragedy.

The Arab leadership says that there is only a short period of time between the battles and the seventh summit conference of non-aligned nations to be held in Bagdad next month. In its view, this interval of time will be taken up by mediation efforts and intervention to halt the spread of the war so as not to provide an opportunity for the two superpowers to enter the field. This is because the conflict and the ensuing instability in the region will necessarily lead to obstruction of the outflow of oil shipments. Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifa bin Sultan al Khalifa, stated that the Iraqi-Iranian war will affect the entire Gulf region if it doesn't end quickly. He called for added efforts for peace and for the necessity of taking a common stance towards the party which is thwarting these efforts.

Observers fear that widening the scope of the war will make it necessary for the Gulf states to confront this storm by all means available. It is a storm that makes victory impossible and may provide radical movements in the Middle East with a new impetus against existing regimes. Naturally, Israel will benefit from these battles due to the preoccupation of the Arab supporter states [of Arab resistance to Israel]; it will carry out its designs on the occupied territories and escalate aggression against Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance and Syria.

The Arab Gulf states represent strategic, political, and economic depth for the confrontation states. The overwhelming concern of these states over the storm raging over Shatt al-'Arab is that the Iraqi-Iranian war will reach the red line, and that these states will be unable to remain only onlookers and supporters. For these reasons, there has been increasingly vociferous calls for reviving the role of the late Algerian foreign minister Muhammed ben Yahya, who was killed at the hands of those with a stake in prolonging the conflict in Shatt al-'Arab.

Our correspondent in Riyadh, Sulayman Nimr, supplied us with the following information on the Iraqi-Iranian war:

"The latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war must move the Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities towards the war and make them convene a high-level Arab conference as soon as possible. This conference should be held even if some states don't attend, because current developments can only lead to two results: either further deterioration in the Arab Gulf region or pacification of the region. In any case there is no doubt that a single, united Arab position is what will decisively resolve the outcome of events in the next few months."

These were the words used by a high-ranking Gulf official to comment to AL-MUSTAQBAL on the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to its national borders. The latter no doubt

caused considerable concern among the Arab Gulf states, especially after the speech made by Ayatollah Khomeyni over Tehran Radio last Monday evening, the day Iraqi forces withdrew from Khorramshahr. The speech carried threatening overtones for the Arab Gulf states. However, his threats were received with total official silence in the Gulf states.

A Gulf official clarified: "Ever since last February in Bahrain when it announced its support of any Arab meeting for discussing the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] has been endeavoring to convene such a meeting so that total responsibility will be shouldered by all the Arabs, and not just the Gulf. But these endeavors have been faced with two obstacles. They are:

"One: The country most directly concerned in the matter, Iraq, has not called for an Arab meeting. If it does, it would be possible for the Gulf states to extend its strongest support.

"Two: Certain Arab countries let it be known through indirect channels that they oppose any Arab meeting for discussing the subject of the Iraqi-Iranian war."

The Gulf official disclosed that the latest meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC held two weeks ago in Kuwait was aiming at calling for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers for the purpose of discussing the Iraqi-Iranian war. It was trying to create an Arab initiative for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, and to hold the meeting even if some Arab countries refused to attend. But the foreign ministers were of the opinion that there be some final efforts at communication with the Arab states that might refuse to attend the meeting, so that they might be informed of the latest Gulf position towards holding the meeting, a meeting which the majority of Arab countries agreed to. It was for this specific reason that the Gulf ministerial meeting was postponed for two weeks. The GCC proceeded to inform Iraq of this and waited to hear its opinion about holding an Arab meeting, while Kuwaiti Minister 'Abd al-Aziz Husayin visited the Iraqi capital on the sixteenth of this month. The visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to Damascus last Monday was related to this matter. During the long meeting held between the Saudi foreign minister and President al-Asad--according to informed sources in Riyadh--the latter made it clear that the Gulf states are concerned that there not be too much divisiveness in the Arab world, and that it desires responsibility for all issues pertaining to the region to be shared among all the Arabs. Hence, the Gulf states wish all of the Arabs to bear their responsibility by holding an Arab meeting at the level of foreign ministers, and as soon as possible. The Gulf states desire that the foreign ministers come to an agreement over any Arab position taken.

Informed sources in Iran indicate that the intensive Arab and Gulf communications ensuing these days are aimed at crystallizing a Gulf initiative to be announced next Sunday during the meeting to be held between the foreign ministers of the Gulf in Riyadh. AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that this initiative is related to the call for a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers through which an initiative for the peaceful resolution of the conflict may be adopted and normalcy be restored to the security and peace of the Arab Gulf region.

The manner in which the Iraqi-Iranian war is perceived in the United States may be deduced from the message sent to us by our Washington correspondent, Sharin Gharib.

The effects of the Iraqi-Iranian war are reflected in the American scene by prominent voices representing various trends regarding the future of American policy towards the region. Military observers in the West agree that it is presently difficult to predict the next Iranian move, i.e., whether they continue with their advance or stop, particularly since Iranian losses have been heavy. This will cause the Iranian leadership to think carefully before proceeding with an adventure of this sort.

Western military analysts add that although Iran has taken the military initiative (attributed by them to "American arms and training"), Iranian forces appear nonetheless to be unable to launch a war on more than one front at once.

Officials in the American administration believe that it is difficult to predict what will happen in the days to come, especially since there are several parties to the Gulf war whose positions cannot be predicted.

However, European circles are saying these days that Iraq's defeat is to the advantage of America, because it would force the Gulf states to seek refuge in the arms of the United States to protect them from Tehran.

Some British newspapers, for example, have started saying that the only states in the region capable of defending themselves by themselves are Israel and Egypt, in alliance with America. In the opinion of these newspapers, the Camp David line is now stronger than at any other time in the region's past.

From another perspective, Claudia Wright, an American correspondent specializing in Middle Eastern affairs, disclosed in an article of hers in the Los Angeles Times the dimensions of Turkish-Israeli-American plans for action now that developments in the Gulf war have reached where they are.

The plan in brief is that Turkey and Israel both desire to expand the zone of American bases to include the Eastern region of Turkey, which is about 220 kilometers from Tabriz and Mosul. One of the proposed scenarios appears to be for Turkey to seize Iraqi land and provinces in northern Iraq, and the Kirkuk region, which is rich in oil and constitutes a part of the Mosul region that some chauvinist Turks have continued to demand since the end of World War I.

This plan is also incorporated into the old-new American plan of creating sectarian mini-states throughout the entire Middle East.

Clearly, the leaking of such news and rumors to the American and British press contributes to the straining of relations between some Eastern countries and provokes certain Turkish elements to undertake action in the south against Iraq, in order to continue with the plan of destroying, plundering, and exhausting the region.

Similarly, there have been some Western newspapers that started a week ago to propose the subject of the feasibility of Iran continuing to advance into Iraqi territory. In this manner it hopes to arouse deeply-buried desires in the minds of the Iranians, and thereby alarm the Arabs and cause them to flock to America for protection.

In this manner, everything [reported] in the West aims at causing the Arabs to rush into the arms of the United States.

9945

CSO: 4404/519

ASSETS OF MAJOR BANKS EQUAL THOSE OF WORLD'S BIGGEST

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 May 82 p 6

[Article by Arye Lavi, economics editor of HA/ARETZ: "Assets of the Three Largest Banks in Israel Comparable to Citibank, the Largest in the World"]

[Text] The three largest banking groups in Israel--Le'umi, Hapo'alim and IDB--have assets equal to that of the world's largest bank, Citibank. This is based on shares of the three largest banks in Israel compared with the market value of shares of the giant American bank.

This information emerged from a study conducted by Ilan Barzel, director of the consulting firm Yorum, which wanted to demonstrate how high the level of bank assets is in Israel compared with assets of the large world banks.

According to Mr Barzel's study, it appears that Bank Hapo'alim, according to the value of its shares in the stock market at the end of April, is worth \$1,380,000,000. Bank Le'umi is valued at \$1,314,000,000 and IDB at \$637 million. In other words, the net value of the three groups in Israel compared with the American Citibank, considered to be the largest bank in the world and valued at \$3,402,000,000, is \$3,331,000,000.

The assets of the three largest banks in Israel are greater than those of the Bank of America, whose assets total \$2,700,000,000; Chase Manhattan is valued at only a bit more than Bank Hapo'alim and Bank Le'umi combined.

This surprising fact generally holds true not only in a comparison between Israeli banks and American banks. The British Barclays Bank is worth much less than Le'umi and Hapo'alim combined since its shares total about \$2,400,000,000. The British Lloyds is valued at only a bit more than each of the big banks in Israel separately. This is also the case for the National Bank of Australia, worth \$617 million, a bit more than the third banking group in Israel, IDB. The Royal Canadian Bank is worth \$1,520,000,000, only \$100 million more than each of the two largest banks in Israel.

HA/ARETZ notes that last week, after the study was completed, a substantial increase of up to 6 percent took place in share values of the large banks so that the value of bank shares increased in accordance with the findings of the study.

A Drop in Dollar Terms

It also appears, on the basis of Mr Barzel's study, that, in the first 4 months of 1982, a drop was noted in the market value of most of the bank shares in dollar terms. The sharpest drop took place in the market value in the (P.B. group)--10 percent, the assets of the group reaching \$149 million.

A drop of 6 percent in dollar terms was reported since the beginning of the year in market value of Discount Bank shares. The value of Bank Le'umi and IDB shares dropped 5 percent in dollar terms since the beginning of the year. The share value of Bank Hapo'alim, the Danot group and First International Bank dropped 4 percent during this period.

Almost no real change was reported in the share values of the Mizrahi Bank. Only the shares of the Bank Klali and Union Bank rose by 10 percent since the beginning of the year in dollar terms and by 6 percent adjusted.

9348

CSO: 4423/167

BRIEFS

DROP IN CRIME RATE--A 16.7 percent drop in the crime rate in Israel has been reported from January to April this year. The police opened 69,825 files this year compared with 83,795 during the corresponding period last year. In the area of property crimes, 12,915 were reported in April in the entire country, a drop of about 20.6 percent compared with last April. Since the beginning of the year (January to April), a total of 56,202 property crimes were reported, a drop of 16.5 percent compared with the same period last year. Another decrease took place in the area of break-ins in apartment houses--22 percent in the period of January-April this year compared with the same period last year. In terms of break-ins at businesses, there has also been a drop of 18.6 percent compared with last year. The smallest decrease occurred in the number of homicides. From January to April of this year, 27 homicides were reported compared with 29 last year. A substantial reduction of 31.9 percent took place in incidents of rape. In the January-April period last year, 72 rapes were reported compared with 49 incidents this year. National headquarters has indicated that, in terms of numbers of crimes in general and property crimes in particular, this is the second year in a row--after several years of a crime rise--that a decrease worthy of encouragement is indicated. [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 82 p 8] 9348

FIRST QUARTER UNEMPLOYMENT--Unemployment rose during the first quarter of the year, and the number of unemployed seeking work reached 73,500 persons compared with 68,000 during the last quarter of 1981. This increase in the number of unemployed means, in seasonally adjusted terms, an increase in unemployment from 5 percent in the last quarter of 1981 to 5.4 percent in the first quarter of this year. These data are based on an analysis of early estimates taken from manpower surveys released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. HA'ARETZ notes that a level of unemployment of 5.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, is the highest level of unemployment recorded in Israel since 1968, when it was 5.8 percent, a time when the economy was coming out of the slowdown during the years 1966-67. Unemployment increased during the first quarter of the year, especially among men. According to seasonally adjusted data, the rate among men reached 4.9 percent compared with 3.7 percent in the last quarter of 1981 and 5.1 percent in the corresponding quarter last year. The average rate of unemployment in 1981 among men reached 4.3 percent. According to seasonally adjusted data, the rate of unemployment among women dropped to 6.5 percent during the first quarter of this year compared with 7.2 percent in the last quarter of 1981 and 5.7 percent in the corresponding quarter last year and compared with an

average 6.4 percent during 1981. The rate of unemployment not seasonally adjusted was 5.1 percent in the first quarter of the year (4.6 percent among men and 5.9 percent among women). [By Shlomo Maoz] [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 82 p 8] 9348

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY--Chief Scientist Prof Arye Lavi presented to the state comptroller's committee [of the Knesset], which is dealing with the budget for industrial research and development, the recommendations of the subcommittee of the technological council on the means and measures to be taken to ensure continued progress in industrial research and development. Members of the subcommittee of the technological council, led by the Chief Scientist, concluded that legislation is needed to encourage industry that is dependent on science. They said, among other things: "The proposed legislation is intended to concentrate and institutionize the government effort for the advancement of industry involved with research and development and to strengthen the institution of the chief scientist appointed over this area." [By the parliamentary editor of HA'ARETZ] [Text] [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 82 p 4] 9348

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PROPOSED PERSONAL STATUS LAW EXAMINED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 745, 26 May 82 pp 16-18

[Article: "Divorce, Polygamy, and Child Custody [As Dealt With] in the Kuwaiti Personal Status Draft Law"]

[Text] The issue of women--women's rights, women's human, legal and personal status, the importance of women, the role played by women, and numerous other issues--are linked to society as it exists, to the growth experienced by society, and to how society will be in the future. In other words, the issue of women is the issue of society--its present and future condition as well as its hopes and aspirations--because women represent half of society and because they participate in building and maintaining it.

This is why the issue of women acquires great importance when dealing with issues connected with society, whether these issues are political, economic, social, intellectual, developmental, or cultural and moral. This is why it is not possible to improve their status at the various levels and in all realms except by developing society as a whole.

We see the truth and importance of the above-mentioned if we accept the fundamental and comprehensive criteria of various social, economic, and political theories, along with the various differences between them. But this does not conflict with the importance of seeing what is special and particular in issues concerning women. This particularly applies to backward societies in which women have suffered persecution from two directions--from society with all of its laws and traditions as well as its [low] level of development, and from men who are prisoners of these laws and traditions as well as of this [low] level of development. This explains the importance of some issues concerning women in these societies, in particular the societies in which women have lagged behind men (as a result of being compelled to do so) and are trying to struggle to catch up with the other half of society. These issues are numerous, and the details relating to them are innumerable. But whether or not the struggle is carried out by women or by those [men] who aspire to build a better future for their society, those engaging in the struggle must have a quiet motto which epitomizes their struggle, and this motto should be "the attainment of equality between men and women with regard to all rights and duties." This is something which is stipulated by the Kuwaiti constitution. Taking up a side issue and debating it for the

purpose of achieving gains in order to further the cause of women in society is justified, regardless of the obvious partial and restricted scope of such an activity, because of the fact that the issue of women is linked to the issues of society.

Dr Badriyah al-'Awadi is in the forefront of women in Kuwaiti society and is making, as she puts it, a "humble" contribution--which is also very valuable--toward revealing the dimensions of some of the issues in Kuwait's personal status law. She has raised these issues in a booklet called "Selected Issues From the Kuwaiti Personal Status Draft Law: A Comparative Study Concerning Divorce, Polygamy, and Child Custody." Her booklet has been divided into two parts. She devotes approximately the first half of it to a discussion of Kuwait's personal law and comparing it [to those of other Arab and Muslim nations] with regard to the three matters mentioned above. She devotes the remaining part of the book to statistical data and tables.

The importance of this booklet is embodied basically in what Dr Badriyah al-'Awadi said in the conclusion of Part I: "We are presenting this study to those who are in charge of the legislative branch of the government because the National Assembly still has time and is still able to introduce some modifications [into the personal status draft law], borrowed from some of the legal systems of some of the other Arab countries, concerning the three basic matters dealt with by the study. This should be done in order to further the interests of the Kuwaiti family and Kuwaiti society, and should be done so that the Kuwaiti law which is issued in 1982 does not end up on the lowest levels of the personal status laws in the Arab and Muslim countries as far as dealing with these essential matters in the Kuwaiti personal status law is concerned." In this study, Dr al-'Awadi puts forward her point of view concerning some of the issues. Since the personal status draft law has been put on the National Assembly's agenda for discussion, and since we want to contribute toward making these points of view known, we are presenting here a summary of Part I of this book which has been distributed by the Young Women's Club. The fact that the Young Women's Club has distributed this book probably means that the Young Women's Club is in favor of the points of view emerging in this study, and this makes it even more important that we treat the study with seriousness and concern.

In her introduction to the study, Dr al-'Awadi says: "The matters relating to these issues are dealt with in approximately 400 articles of the personal status draft law. This makes it impossible to discuss them in a brief study such as this, especially since gaining an understanding of their content requires comparing them with the personal status laws in other Arab and Muslim nations." She adds: "This study deals with some selected matters which are still the subject of discussion and debate. There have been differences in judgments and rulings made concerning these matters, even though all of them are based on principles from the Koran, the Sunna [customary actions] of the Prophet, and other sources of Islamic religious law."

Divorce and Granting Divorce

After this introduction the study gives Islam's interpretation and concept of divorce and granting divorces. Both verses of the Koran and Hadiths [traditions] of the Prophet are cited in which Islam grants men the right to resort to divorce and allows women to request that a divorce be granted if it turns out that a conflict between two spouses cannot be settled. Dr al-'Awadi is of the opinion that a dispute is arising among theologians who are experts in religious law concerning how men should be allowed to utilize their right to divorce women. She says: "This difference clearly emerges when we see the positions adopted by the various personal status laws in the Arab and Muslim countries. We find that the legislation in some of these countries puts no restrictions on the utilization of this right [of men to divorce women] and leaves it up to the discretionary powers of men. On the other hand, some of the nations have tried to put some restrictions on the utilization of this right by men in order to prevent it from being abused. This latter trend is one which is moving in the direction of serving the legitimate interests [of women], whereas the former trend is one which is traditional."

The writer goes on to say: "After a careful reading of the articles of the Kuwaiti personal status draft law, we discover that the traditional orientation is the one which prevails in most of its provisions, both in terms of giving men free rein to divorce women, with no restriction, and in terms of forms and formalities. It has turned out this way even though statistics put out by the Ministry of Justice indicate that during the last 5 years there has been an increase in divorce cases. One clearly sees the traditional orientation of the Kuwaiti personal status draft law in Article 100 which grants a husband the right to carry out a divorce himself, without being subject to any restrictions or conditions. Article 100 stipulates the following:

'A divorce may be carried out by any husband who is in full possession of his mental faculties, is legally an adult, does so of his own accord, and is conscious of what he is saying [and doing]. A divorce may not be carried out by a husband who is insane, or demented, or compelled to do so, or does so by mistake, or is drunk, perplexed, or angry, if his words and deeds primarily show an imbalanced state [of mind].'"

"On the basis of this, the draft law grants a husband the right to carry out a divorce on the basis of his wish alone, whenever he fulfills the conditions assumed to be fulfilled by a normal person." She goes on to say: "It is our belief that the Kuwaiti draft law considers the fulfillment of these conditions to be sufficient to put a check on abuse of this right which has been established by Islamic law. But this matter cannot be left as such, without regulation or restrictions through the letter of the law, since it concerns the rights of others as well. This is what has occurred in some of the personal status laws of some of the Arab and Muslim nations. They have formulated some restrictions to prevent husbands' abusing this right and in order to preserve the make-up of the family. Discretion in this regard has been left up to the legislators, in accordance with the objectives for the sake of which divorce is permitted."

The writer questions the wisdom of making it a condition that a husband agree to divorce initiated by the wife, who must pay compensation. This is what is stipulated by Article 109 of the draft law, where the wording is as follows: "'Khul' means that the husband divorces his wife in return for compensation which the two of them agree upon. It may be accomplished by uttering the word 'khul' [divorce at the instance of the wife, who must pay a compensation], 'talaq' ['divorce' in the general sense, or meaning divorce at the instance of the husband], or 'mubara'ah' [divorce by mutual consent of the husband and wife, both of them waiving all claims by way of compensation], or what is understood to mean the aforementioned." 'Khul' may be carried out only by the two spouses or those who represent them."

"If, according to the draft law, a husband is able to carry out the divorce without the consent of his wife, and if the husband's consent [to divorce initiated by his wife] is tantamount to regaining the money paid to his wife or the balance of the dowry [paid by the husband], then the court can force the wife to comply with this as a condition for granting the 'khul' type of divorce. This is in spite of the fact that legislators have attempted by providing the 'khul' type of divorce, to give the wife a legitimate means to free herself of a type of marital life which no longer achieves the goal intended for it, as decided by Islamic law. This is not in agreement with Article 114 of the draft law which stipulates that the implementation of a 'khul' type of divorce have the consent of both the husband and the wife. From this one is led to understand that the Kuwaiti draft law assumes that when a wife resorts to a 'khul' type of divorce, this should not be as a result of coercion by the husband, even though the latest statistics put out by the Ministry of Justice indicate that there is an increase in cases of 'khul' type of divorces. This indicates that husbands are resorting to this type of divorce in order to obtain material compensation or force the wife to accept conditions which are harmful to the interests of children in custody [of the wife] and make the rights of the children an object of bargaining between the two spouses."

The writer goes on to say: "The Kuwaiti draft law grants women the right to request a divorce in certain cases, the most important of which have been mentioned. These cases include divorce because of [a husband's] disappearance or imprisonment. However, Article 124 does not permit a wife to request a divorce if the husband's absence is due to his being taken prisoner or being arrested and detained. In such a case, he is considered to be absent for a [justified] reason. Although the reasoning behind this might be tantamount to a noble aim, in view of the circumstances of such husbands, nevertheless the right of wives [of husbands in such situations] to request a divorce should not be neglected. This should be left up to the discretionary powers of a wife after a certain time period passes, the precedent established being the fact that legislators do not intervene in many of the cases in which [discretionary] powers are left up to the husband, out of respect for his legitimate rights."

The writer reviews some of the personal status laws which exist in some countries, and compares them with the Kuwaiti personal status law as far as divorce and granting divorces is concerned. For example, she reviews the

personal status laws in Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Tunisia. This comparison of the personal status laws leads her to say: "In spite of the changes and development in Kuwaiti society and increase in divorce cases and cases of abuse of divorce [laws by some husbands]--as is inferred by the rulings made by Kuwaiti courts--the personal status draft law is still characterized by a traditional orientation. In spite of this, though, the draft law urgently needs to be passed. Nevertheless, in comparison with the personal status laws of some of the other Arab countries, it is still on a low level." She added: "In view of the fact that illiteracy is widespread in them, and in view of the fact that cases of divorce are increasing, it has become necessary for the Kuwaiti personal status law to include a provision similar to Article 117 of Syria's personal status law if we are serious about putting a stop to the phenomenon of arbitrary divorce [by husbands], granting discretionary powers to judges, and formulating the general precepts necessary to protect women and the rights of children in Kuwaiti society."

Polygamy

The writer points out: "Most personal status legislation in the Arab and Muslim nations has adopted the general principle of not allowing polygamy except under certain conditions and for certain reasons. This has been done in order to prevent abuse of this right. The Kuwaiti personal status draft law, on the other hand, has taken a different tack which is not in harmony with the requirements [for improving] the situation which prevails in Kuwaiti society. This fact emerges in Article 21 of the draft law which clearly provides for allowing polygamy without any restrictions or conditions, since the article stipulates the following: 'A man is not allowed to marry a fifth wife before dissolving his marriage with one of his four wives and before the end of her period of "iddah" [legally prescribed period of waiting during which a woman may not remarry after being widowed or divorced].' At the same time, some of the personal status legislation in some of the other Arab nations clearly stipulates the following: 'A man's marriage to a second wife is considered harmful to the interests of the [first] wife, and this is grounds for the first wife to request a divorce.'" From this, the writer concludes: "Kuwaiti legislators have deprived women of a right granted to them by Islamic law and by personal status laws in many Arab and Muslim nations." She provides proof of this with her review of the provisions of the articles of personal status laws in a number of Arab and Muslim nations. After comparing them with the Kuwaiti personal status law, she concludes the following: "Kuwaiti legislators have not tried to adopt the solutions decided upon by these laws [dealing with personal status in other Arab and Muslim countries], in spite of the fact that polygamy has become a problem which is harmful to the public interest. Legislators should strike a balance between the public interest and the personal interest of husbands by means of express stipulations in the law whenever possible."

Child Custody

"Personal status laws in the other Arab countries contain numerous provisions which provide the necessary solutions for this problem with which a divorce

is confronted. These laws are similar in some matters such as granting custody priority to the mother as long as she does not [subsequently] enter into an unlawful marriage, and concerning matters such as the conditions necessary for custody such as the mother being of age, being able to bring up the child, the child support which must be paid [by the father] who is charged with paying it, unless he is unable to do so, and the fact that the mother is not allowed to take the child she has custody of and travel abroad except with the permission of the father. Differences between these personal status laws crop up in some matters such as the age at which the period of custody ends, the circumstances under which custody can be denied, and the fact that [some of the laws] consider that a person who is silent about his or her custody rights for a period of 1 year after learning of these rights loses his or her custody rights."

"Most of these personal status laws in the other Arab countries contain the principle that established the mother's priority rights concerning custody if there is no reason to deny such rights. Nevertheless, Kuwaiti legislators have not provided an express provision which deals with the situation of working mothers and the extent to which they have priority in custody rights. In fact, some of them claim that the fact that a mother works outside the household is cause for denying this mother custody of her children."

"We believe that adoption of the orientation adopted by the Syrian personal status law in 1953 would put an end to the views which conflict with the status of working women in Kuwait. Also, if the legislators would take such an action while discussing the matter of working mothers having child custody during their passage of the law, this would prevent Kuwaiti courts [later on] from having to deal with inconsistencies and instability [in the law]. Paragraph 2 of Article 139 of Syria's personal status law stipulates the following: 'A mother having custody of children may not lose her custody rights because of her work if she makes sure that she is taking care of her children in an acceptable manner.'"

9468

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BUDGET FOR KUNA, SCIENCE INSTITUTE APPROVED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 745, 26 May 82 p 15

[Article: "Approval of the Budgets of the Kuwait News Agency [KUNA] and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research"]

[Text] The National Assembly, at a special session held last Saturday, passed the two bills dealing with the budgets of the Kuwait News Agency [KUNA] and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research for fiscal year 1982/83. KUNA's budget revenue for 1982/83 was an estimated 3,097,000 dinars. Of this amount, 161,000 dinars represent KUNA's own budget revenue, and the other 2,936,000 dinars were subtracted from the allocations coming under the category of unclassified expenditures and transfer payments. The budget expenditure was an estimated 3,097,000 dinars.

During the general debate concerning the bill dealing with KUNA's budget, the members of the National Assembly demanded that efforts be made to train Kuwaitis in the field of journalistic work so that they can, in turn, do their part as Kuwaiti personnel working for Kuwaiti daily newspapers and so that KUNA can appoint Kuwaitis, where possible, or their fellow Arabs, to positions in its foreign bureaus in place of the foreigners who cannot be trusted. Some members emphasized the importance of having KUNA's correspondents abroad investigate the truth of news stories from their official sources, and they emphasized that this would provide KUNA with freedom of action and total independence in transmitting news items from all areas of the world.

Most of the members praised the great efforts in the media field being made by KUNA in its endeavors to continuously pursue news stories. They said that if this indicates anything at all, it indicates the capability of the people working in this national media establishment.

When the bill dealing with KUNA's budget for 1982/83 was voted on, it was passed by the National Assembly with 33 persons voting in favor of it, 5 persons voting against it, and 1 person abstaining. Then the National Assembly debated the bill dealing with the budget of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. The budget total is 14,491,700 dinars. Of this total, 11,559,000 dinars represents a subsidy from the government, and the other 2,933,700 dinars represent the Institute's own budget revenue. The budget expenditure was an estimated 14,491,700 dinars.

Article 3 of the bill stipulated that the Institute's revenue surplus be returned to the state public treasury. This would be done after deducting a percentage of the surplus, to be used either to constitute a general reserve for the Institute, or to be used for new projects, or to be used for supporting existing projects. This would be in accordance with the results of the final statement of account which will be appearing at the end of fiscal year 1982/83.

During the general debate dealing with the budget of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, some members criticized the scientific projects being undertaken by the Institute, saying that there was no justification for them and that they were not of any great benefit to Kuwait's citizens. They said that these projects were nothing more than miniature versions of experimental projects being conducted in the other nations of the world.

Some members demanded that Kuwaiti personnel be trained to engage in scientific research instead of relying on concluding contracts with non-Arab researchers, the employment of whom takes enormous sums out of the Institute's budget. They said that efforts should be made to interest Kuwaitis in working in the Institute, and that this should be done instead of accepting their resignations. The members also demanded that foreign secretaries no longer be hired for administrative positions and that they be replaced by Kuwaiti and Arab women.

The head of the Institute said that the Institute does have qualified Kuwaiti and Arab personnel and that they are of a scientific stature which enables them to be of general benefit to Kuwait. He said that the resignations which had taken place were not something that had happened [merely] during the last 2 years, but rather had taken place ever since the Institute was founded in 1969. He said that there was tangible cooperation between the Institute and government organizations and ministries in the field of contract research.

The minister of finance and planning, Mr 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, in the course of his reply to what was said by the members, said: "I believe that there should be an understanding and awareness of the nature of the Institute's work. It would be difficult for Kuwait not to play a role in the scientific research which provides benefit to Kuwait and other nations. The results of scientific research cannot be paraded in front of people within the space of only 1 or 2 years. The government is of the opinion that scientific research is something which deserves to have money spent on it."

When the members finished their general debate, the National Assembly reviewed the paragraphs of the budget, article by article, and approved them. When the bill was voted on, the National Assembly passed the budget of the Institute, with the vote being 26 persons in favor of it, 8 persons against it, and 1 person abstaining.

PROPERTY CONFISCATION LAW ISSUED

London AL-JAMAHIRIYA FI USBU' in Arabic 25 Mar 82 p 9

[Article: Law Number 1 for the Year 1982 A.S. Concerning Title to the People to Property Under Custodianship and Property of Deserter]

[Text] The People's General Congress

In accordance with the decisions taken by the People's Congresses in its third regular session for the year 1391 after the death of the Prophet (1981 A.D.), and formulated by the General Assembly of the People's Congresses, the People's Committees, Syndicates, Unions and Professional Trade Associations (General People's Conference) in its seventh regular session in the period 7 to 10 Rabi' Awwal 1391 after the death of the Prophet (2-5 January 1982 A.D.).

The Law's Text:

Article One

Title is granted to the Arab Libyan people to full ownership of fixed and moveable property and possessions placed under custodianship [of the government] in accordance with any law or decree made before the issuance of this law.

Article Two

In compliance with the verdict of the second paragraph of this article, title is granted to the Arab Libyan people to full ownership of fixed and moveable property and possessions owned before the issuance of this law by those enemies of the people who have deserted and fled from the Arab Libyan People's Socialist Jamahiriyyah, and whose names have been determined by decisions taken at the People's General Committee. Nevertheless, they will not be subject to the judgment of title to the property of desertions in accordance with this article if they return to the Fatherland within 60 days of the publication date of the decisions, including the names of deserters, in the official newspaper.

Article Three

The Arab Libyan people will have no obligations or duties to those persons whose property and possessions are subject to the verdict of this law, except to the

extent of the rights entitled to them in accordance with the verdict of the preceding two articles.

Article Four

Deserters who have fled abroad and who are subject to the verdict of this law are not entitled to any compensation whatsoever for property or possessions whose title is transferred to the people in accordance with this law.

Article Five

All contracts, dispositions or proceedings in violation of the verdicts of this law are regarded as null and void.

Article Six

A notice of property and possessions, and the procedure for their disposal, and the names of those subject to the verdict of this law will be issued by the decision of the People's General Committee.

Article Seven

All judgments in violation of the verdict of this law are null and void.

Article Eight

This law takes effect upon the date of its issue and upon its publication in the official gazette.

"People's General Congress."

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CSO: 4504/266

LIBYA

BRIEFS

UREA EXPORT--This week in the oil port of al-Buraiqa (Cyrenaica), the first shipment of Urea fertilizer was exported outside Libya. The National Company of Petroleum Chemicals says that the quantity produced during the last third of 1981 exceeded 38,000 metric tons of this substance. It is worth noting that Libyan Urea fertilizer possesses distinctive qualities different from other industrial fertilizers in the world. [Text] [London AL-JAMAHIRIYAH FI USBU' in Arabic 4 Feb 82 p 6] 9945

TEACHING FACILITIES--The number of classrooms constructed increased from 12,502 in 1969-1970 to around 36,175 for the year 1980-1981. The number of male and female teachers increased from 16,334 in 1969-70 to around 58,873 for the year 1980-81. The number of male and female students in all stages of education increased from 382,200 in 1969-1970 to 1,008,000. [Text] [London AL-JAMAHIRIYAH FI USBU' in Arabic 25 Feb 82 p 6] 9945

CSO: 4504/266

ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN HADRAMAUT DISCUSSED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 31 Mar 82 p 2

[Article by 'Aziz al-Tha'alibi: "A Look at the Progress Made in the Implementation of the Projects in the Governorate of Hadramaut in the First Year of the Second 5-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development"]

[Text] The Rate of Implementation Was 90 Percent in Financial Terms and 80 Percent in Material Terms.

An Appeal for Support for the Planning Unit By Means of [Providing] Technical Personnel, and for Eliminating Its Weak Spot.

The year 1981 abounded in great efforts to attain high degrees of implementation of the projects of the first year of the second 5-year development plan (1981-85) in all sectors. The working masses in our country excelled in raising their work and production rates and in developing the various areas of community life.

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to provide an example of the rate of implementation achieved by the projects of the Governorate of Hadramaut last year (1981). The rate of implementation was 90 percent, in financial terms, and approximately 80 percent, in material terms. This was a higher rate of implementation than what was achieved in 1980 when the rate of implementation reached 80 percent only in material terms.

Innumerable public projects have been undertaken--bridges have been built, new roads have been constructed and paved, means of communications have been improved, and a new airport has been built in al-Rayyan to easily and efficiently serve various types of aircraft.

Assessment of the Planning Unit in the Governorate

These facts impelled me to bring up the subject of the planning unit in the Governorate of Hadramaut in order to provide you, dear readers, with some sort of assessment of the progress of the implementation of the projects in the Governorate of Hadramaut during the first year of the plan period.

In one of the corners of a rather large room on the third floor of the governorate headquarters building in Mukalla, I met Mr Najib Muhammad Bakir, the head of the governorate's planning unit. All around me I saw the desks of the planning unit workers crowded into the room. This is the only facility which the planning unit has, besides a small adjacent area where the archives and printing division are located.

This reminded me of the very first days after this planning unit was started up in this same building in 1974. The unit started on a very small scale. Then its personnel increased and its activities expanded until it acquired, in 1980, a branch in Say'un. Today, more than at any time in the past, the planning unit needs to have the services of technical personnel in the field of construction who can take over the responsibilities of supervising the course of the projects and preparing technical reports about them. In addition to this, personnel in the planning unit need to be trained.

This is part of the general fabric of the planning unit. But regardless of these various needs, the thing that must be done is to eliminate the weak spot which every visitor to the planning unit sees. This weak spot is the fact that the planning unit needs to be provided with a headquarters which can better house all of the divisions of the planning unit!

This fleeting observation constituted the beginning of our interview with the head of the planning unit. After that, our dialogue turned to the progress in implementation of the governorate's projects during the first year of the development plan period. He said:

"The first year of the second 5-year plan was the object of concern on the part of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the governorate as well as the Executive Bureau of the local People's Council. This interest was reflected in the follow-up work done on the measures of preparation of the governorate's projects scheduled for the first year of the plan period, the review and discussion of implementation progress reports, and the provision of continual guidance for the purpose of developing approaches toward implementing the projects which would lead to a higher rate of implementation. These efforts brought positive results which were embodied by the fact that the rate of implementation, which was determined at the end of the year, was about 90 percent in financial terms and approximately 80 percent in material terms."

"We are able to say that there has been remarkable development in the area of preparing the 1981 plan. Definite indicators have been prepared for the projects of each governorate. This is something which helps the executive bodies to judge the quarterly achievements of the progress of implementation [of the projects]--by comparing the indicators with what has been accomplished. However, these indicators were not utilized and compared with the progress of implementation during 1981 because the institutions of the governorate did not include statistical units. But these statistical units will be providing us with an idea about the indicators of implementation achieved during 1981 as well as [an idea concerning] the weakness of available potential and resources. This task was recently entrusted to the Statistics Branch of the Central Apparatus in the Governorate of Hadramaut. In fact, a

memorandum has been prepared concerning the 1980 indicators, and another memorandum is currently being prepared concerning the 1981 indicators. It is perhaps important to note that the bodies implementing the projects in the governorate are endeavoring to periodically and regularly submit reports about their plans to the Statistics Branch of the Central Apparatus of the governorate in order to help it accomplish its task in this area. One remark which I should take the opportunity to make is the following: The governorate's planning unit usually is not in touch with the governorate's projects which are being studied in the headquarters. It would be better if the planning unit had an idea concerning the steps being taken with regard to these projects."

Investment Allocations, and Related Difficulties

The head of the planning unit continued his discussion by talking about investment allocations and defining the most important difficulties related to this field. He said:

"According to the plan booklet, investment allocations planned for the governorate's projects in 1981 totalled 22,480,100 dinars. Of this amount, 5,652,975 dinars were actually turned over to the governorate, and this represents 25 percent of the allocations. A total of 5,115,405 dinars of this amount was actually spent. Thus the rate of implementation achieved was about 90 percent. This is a fairly acceptable rate of implementation when one takes into account the circumstances which accompanied the course of implementation of the projects, the most important of which to be mentioned are:

1. The delay in the arrival of the authorizations for some of the projects as late as November and December. This brought about a delay in the implementation of the projects.
2. The executive bodies are not endeavoring to set up programs of implementation for the projects which are in their sphere of competence, nor are they regularly submitting quarterly progress reports by the deadlines set for this.
3. The governorate lacks a technical work force, particularly in the field of electrical power. This has resulted in postponing some of the programs from one year to the next (such as the (Jawl Mashah)/Fuwwah Line project in the Mukalla Subdistrict)."

"Overcoming these difficulties, and any other difficulties which might crop up during the course of implementation of the projects, requires that all of the bodies concerned pool their efforts in order to develop methods of implementing the projects so that a high rate [of implementation] can be achieved during the next [plan] period."

Review of the Progress of Implementation of the Projects

The following projects were assigned to the Governorate of Hadramaut during the first year of the [second] 5-year development plan (1981-85) in the sectors of industry, agriculture, the fishing industry, construction, and social services. The following is a review of these projects:

The Sector of Industry

According to the plan booklet for the year 1981, investment allocations for the sector of industry in the governorate totalled 1,243,500 dinars and were allocated for the implementation of projects in the fields of petroleum, water supply, and electricity.

Petroleum

The construction of a mazut [medium-grade heating oil] storage tank in Mukalla, the capacity of which is to be 12,000 gallons. Work on this project made little headway because obstacles were not removed from the site.

The project for constructing a gasoline service station in Say'un. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1982.

The construction of a kerosine storage tank in Mukalla. A survey has been made of the area where the storage tank will be set up.

Water Supply

Seven Public Water Commission projects have been implemented, and they are distributed throughout the principal cities of the governorate. The details concerning these projects are as follows:

The Mukalla water supply project--In connection with this project work has been concentrated on completing the digging of two wells which will increase the pumping capacity by 360,000 gallons a day, constructing a pumping site for the first well, and constructing the base of a water tank having a capacity of 1 million gallons. Also, painting was done on water tanks in the Uktubar [October], 'Ummal [Workers'], and Salam [Peace] sections of the city of Mukalla, as well as on the water tank in the village of (Thalah) in the Mukalla Subdistrict. This activity was accompanied by improvement of the water supply network in the city of Mukalla.

The water supply projects in al-Shihr--In al-Shihr two wells were dug, the water supply network was expanded, and 40 percent of the painting of the water tank was finished.

The water supply project in Ghayl Ba Wazir/Mukalla Subdistrict--Work on the network for supplying water to the Rayyan airport has been completed on 1,400 meters of the total water line provided for [in the plan], a pump was provided for the project, and the water tank was painted. Water has been

brought to the Husayn region which previously had no water, and the danger to the source of water for al-Ghayl was eliminated by setting up the (Tumayr) dam.

The Say'un water project--This project has involved the implementation of construction of the (Hasa) al-Faqih water tank, the capacity of which is 21,000 gallons. Furthermore, the operation of deepening the wells of the existing water projects has been completed 100 percent, and the results of this work have been good. In addition to this, work has been completed on modifying the water supply networks and connecting the pumping lines of six local projects. The rate of completion in the water supply projects at al-Qarn was 52 percent.

The water supply project at Shibam/al-Qatn--Work on the construction of the water tank at al-(Hutah) has been completed and work on the water tank at (Yujh) has been 75 percent completed. It is estimated that work on installing the pipe lines in the city of Shibam is 92 percent complete. As for the city of al-Qatn, work on digging [water wells] there is 42 percent complete.

Water supply projects in the rural areas--Work on the water tank for the (Dis) Subdistrict and for al-Hami in the city of al-Shihr has been completed. Furthermore, work has been completed on the water tank at al-Raydah al-Sharqiyah [Eastern Raydah], the capacity of which is 15,000 gallons, and 3,000 dinars were transferred to cover the cost of building materials for the water supply project at Hajar and 2,000 dinars [were transferred to] the water supply project at Ghayl 'Unuq.

Electricity

Six electricity projects have been implemented, the most important of which is the Wadi Hadramawt [Hadramaut Valley] electrification project which is considered to be the most vital of the projects. The overall rate of completion for all of the electric power projects was, on the average, 80 percent--in comparison with a completion rate of 5 percent in 1980 [as published].

The (Jawl Mashah)/Fuwwah Line project, in the Mukalla Subdistrict, is 29 percent complete, and more would have been completed if it were not for the scarcity of technicians.

The project for electrification of the agricultural areas has been totally completed. The generators in the cities of al-Qatn, al-(Dis) al-Sharqiyah, al-Hami, and Shibam are in operation.

In the city of Mukalla work has been concentrated on improving the three electricity networks in the 'Ummal, Salam, and al-Shahid Khalid [Khalid the Martyr] sections of the city. Also, the setting up of new transformers has helped to bring electric power to all areas of the city in sufficient amounts.

It should be pointed out that the (Jawl Mashah)/Thalah) Line project in the Mukalla Subdistrict will enable the pumping of more water to the city of Mukalla and allow the city to be able to do without the old well generators which broke down from time to time in the middle of the summer and exasperated the Public Water Commission! Another benefit of this project is the fact that it brings lighting to the village of al-Harshiyat in the Mukalla Subdistrict and brings electric power to the central warehouses of the Internal Trade Company and the central warehouses of the Internal Trade Company and the central warehouses which have been set up in (Jul Mshah) by the National Medicines Company. Electric power is also being supplied to the warehouses of the Carpenters' Cooperative along the coastline, the local Land Transportation Company, and the hospital for pulmonary diseases in al-Harshiyat. This [power] line is considered to be part of the line going to the Fuwwah region of the Mukalla Subdistrict on which work began during the previous plan period.

There Is More to Tell

We have presented a review of the progress of implementation of the projects in the sector of industry for the Governorate of Hadramaut for the first year of the second modified 5-year plan (1981-85). In a coming issue of this newspaper we will present [a review of] the progress of implementation of the plan's projects in the other sectors.

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PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED

Damascus SAWT FALASTIN in Arabic No 171, Apr 82 pp 12-15

[Interview with Dr Muhsen Bilal, chairman of the People's Council of Foreign Affairs by SAWT FALASTIN; date and place not specified"]

[Text] SAWT FALASTIN recently met with Dr Muhsen Bilal for a comprehensive interview. Dr Bilal is chairman of the People's Council Committee on Arab and Foreign Affairs in Syria. Dr Bilal is well known for his boldness and his objectivity in his analyses of developments on the Arab and international levels. He is well known in the capitals of Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America as a strong defender of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their return to their country. He is also known in parliamentary forums as a determined fighter in the Arab political struggle against Zionism at the international level, and against American designs for reconciliation in the region.

In this interview, Dr Muhsen Bilal affirmed that the Arab Steadfastness Front must be grounded in an organic relation and fusion between the revolutionary Syria and the Palestinian revolution. This relationship stems from the fact that Palestine comprises the southern part of Syria, and Syria is likewise the northern part of Palestine. Dr Muhsen also reveals that Phalangist-Zionist collaboration is no longer a speculative, theoretical concern. It is now being translated in practice and is represented by Bashir al-Jumayyil and the agent Sa'd Haddad. He also asserts that this collaboration is bound to fail.

Dr Muhsen describes the attempts at bringing Egypt back into the Arab family as a musical comedy represented by the farce of Mubarak's willingness to travel to Israel, but not Jerusalem. He asserts that Egypt can only be allowed to return to the Arab nation on condition that it liberate itself from the chains of Camp David. We want a liberated Arab Egypt, the Egypt of 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Dr Muhsen says that several Arab groups, not necessarily reactionary, gambled on European participation. But the European role has been confined to unofficial statements on the Arab cause. What follows is the SAWT FALASTIN interview with Dr Muhsen Bilal:

Question: To begin with, let us take a look at the political map of the region. What do you make of the general situation, developments and trends of this map?

Answer: In my view, the Arab political map today is much worse than any topographer could depict. We have the tragedy of the Iraq-Iran War initiated by the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, to strike a blow at the Islamic revolution in Iran. He has insisted on portraying the conflict as a racial one between the Arab and Persian peoples. But this attempt will certainly fail.

We are also confronted with the Lebanese tragedy that remains unresolved. In the Maghreb we have the regime of King Hassan II. Besides trying to suppress the Polisario revolution, he will most certainly continue to play the role of godfather for the United States (and for France, after his latest policy). He has also granted so-called concessions to the United States as a result of Alexander Haig's trip to Morocco. By "concessions" we understand him to mean American imperialist bases.

We have the regimes of Mubarak and Numeiry, who continue along the path of Camp David and its hostility to Arab national liberation movements. Most of the reactionary Arab regimes are mobilizing their forces to confront what they call communist infiltration, thereby submitting to the dictates of the United States. In the process, they forget about the dangers of Zionist-Israeli expansionism and the struggle for survival between us, as Arabs, and World Zionism in our region.

In all objectivity, Syria today constitutes the primary and solitary confrontation front against Israel, Zionism, imperialism, and reaction. Our people, our party and our progressive national front led by the comrade-fighter Hafiz al-Asad discharge this mission with a spirit of giving and determination. Our sisters and allies, the members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and especially the Palestinian resistance, together with ourselves most certainly comprise the vanguard of the Arab national liberation movement. We must implant this institution securely and give it real substance (structure) to enable it to lead the Arab national struggle and to overcome the defeatism and submissiveness of some of the Arab reactionary regimes. Therefore, we must have genuine material support for Syria as a material base for confrontation and for the defense of the dignity of the Arab nation.

Question: Let us pause briefly to consider the Syrian-Palestinian relation. Do you believe that the latest meetings in Damascus between the respective delegations of the Ba'th party, headed by comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Fatah, headed by brother Abu Iyad, will shed some light on the prerequisite process of firmly implanting Arab unity with respect to fusing the Palestinian-Syrian struggles?

Answer: I believe that the supporters and the leadership of our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, together with the masses of the Palestinian resistance and of Fatah in particular, will converge in the same hope for Syrian-Palestinian resistance and unity.

For our part, and from this perspective, we have no doubts at all about achieving an organic unity. Everyone knows that this idea, or rubric, was first proposed by comrade Hafiz al-Asad more than 3 years ago. We in Syria believe that we are all one people and one integral geographic group--that includes Syrians, the Palestinian people and masses, and the different components of the Palestinian resistance and the PLO. In Syria we all struggle for the same cause, for the Palestinian cause. We consider occupied Palestine to be the southern part of Syria. We are also certain that the Palestinian people and all Palestinian fighters consider Syria the northern part of Palestine.

Question: At a time of escalated Israeli threats and the possibility of Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil announces his determination to take an isolationist position in Beirut. How can we explain the Phalangist-Israeli collaboration? What are its ramifications?

Answer: Concerning the Israeli threats, there is little doubt that Israel is preoccupied with Syria and how to save itself from Syria's steadfastness. Israeli policy is nonplussed by the stalwart Syrian representing Arab virility and refusal to surrender. All of Begin's present designs--designs aimed at shaping history for future generations of Zionists--have as their purpose the fragmentation of Syria's capacity for steadfastness and confrontation. Israel has employed various threats and pressure on Syria: the missile crisis, where Syrian missiles were placed in Lebanon to protect the Lebanese people and the Syrian peace-keeping forces in Lebanon from Zionist raids; continuous threats of occupying Lebanon; and the annexation of the Golan Heights. All of these Zionist designs are understood in Syria as constituting threats and pressure directed against the steadfastness of Syria.

As for the question of Phalangist-Zionist collaboration, I think that it is no longer a question for mere speculation or theoretical analysis. It is a collaboration that is actually being put into practice by Bashir al-Jumayyil and the agent Sa'd Haddad. They are living and ugly examples of the actual collaboration going on today.

Phalangist-Israeli cooperation is met with opposition by our people in Lebanon. It only adds to their determination to achieve national unity and solidarity. It only increases insistence on the territorial and national integrity of Lebanon. Lebanon is an inseparable part of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation. For clear-cut evidence of this, one need only point to the blood bond between the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian-Syrian resistance. This is the Lebanese people's response to the seditious and futile Phalangist-Israeli collaboration.

Question: Currently there have been attempts to depict Mubarak as an Arab. Some say that these attempts will be undertaken at the practical level, as well as on the plane of ideas and proposals, as soon as Israel evacuates the Sinai after 25 April. What do you think of this?

Answer: These various American, European and reactionary Arab attempts at portraying Mubarak as an Arab and at bringing him back to the Arab fold are of no avail because Mubarak is a national continuation of al-Sadat. Mubarak has announced officially and through the media that he will not restore relations with the Arabs at the expense of the normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy. A "price" has been put on Mubarak's return to the Arab fold. In our opinion, this price is very cheap. Mubarak's farcical refusal to go to Jerusalem on his visit to Israel is like a musical comedy. It will hardly suffice as the cost of being accepted back into the Arab fold.

The Egyptian regime is the lynchpin of the Camp David agreement. This agreement is traitorous and will remain condemned by the Arab people of Egypt, and by the Arab national liberation movement. Egypt will not be accepted back into the Arab fold as long as Camp David prevails, as long as normalization with Israel continues, and as long as the Camp David elements remain in the leadership of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

We are certainly confident of the return of beloved Arab Egypt to the Arab family. But it must be the Egypt of the Arab national liberation movement, and of 'Abd al-Nasir and the great Egyptian people. It must be an Egypt ready to deal with its traitors as it dealt with the great traitor Anwar al-Sadat. This is why we don't share in the popular illusions surrounding the 25 April return of the Sinai. Unfortunately, the Sinai cannot really belong to Egypt as long as Camp David remains. Sinai will simply be occupied by multi-national forces instead of only one people's forces. The Israeli flag will come down in Sinai only to be raised, regrettably, in Cairo.

Question: Many people have wagered on the stance taken by Europe towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. They were taken in by the Europeans' equivocal statements. Then came Mitterrand's visit to Israel, which followed the agreement by certain Western European nations to participate in the multi-national peace-keeping forces (in the Sinai), and the Arab gamble on Europe was lost. How do you evaluate European policy with respect to its position towards American policy in the region, and with respect to Arab rights?

Answer: Personally, I have not been deceived at all by European positions in the past, not even France's previous positions. This is due to the fact that among Europe's ruling classes there exists, for a variety of reasons, a racist, imperialist spirit against us as Arabs. Several Arab groups, not necessarily reactionary ones, gambled on a European initiative. But what has Europe contributed to our just cause but some unofficial words?

The most Europe has done was to issue the "Bunduqiya" (Venice) statement 2 years ago. We in Syria rejected that statement at the time as a carbon copy of Camp David. The Europeans are even backing off from that statement to the point where Claude Cheysson said in Israel that it was "irrelevant."

Europe was the cultural and historical origin of capitalism and imperialism, in both older and modern times. Europe is now a geographical and political appendage of the United States, head of world imperialism. Just think about

how the European governments acquiesce in the saturation of their lands with medium-range missiles and nuclear bases. Europe willingly risks annihilation due to any adventure that the U.S. administration happens to embark upon. This acquiescence on the part of European governments compels us to ask: Don't they mind being in such a subordinate position? Or is it that Europe considers herself to comprise one single imperialist camp along with the United States.

I believe that the latter supposition is the correct one. Europe was acceding to Reagan's desires with its announcement of 21 March on Save Afghanistan Day, whereas we have been working with the Europeans for 30 years in an effort to acknowledge the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, and to exert some pressure, albeit half-hearted and reluctant, on Israel--which is occupying militarily lands belonging to Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan. Despite the many bonds tying the Arab region with Europe, especially the bond of mutual security, we have no initiative forthcoming from Europe to champion the Arab demand of an end to occupation and an end to the dispersion and oppression of an entire people, the Palestinian people. At the same time, we find all of Europe on the side of the United States on the so-called Save Afghanistan Day--even though Afghanistan is a sovereign nation, with a progressive national government, and a people in possession of their own land and enjoying full freedom and sovereignty. Therefore, from our part there is no gamble on official Europe. However, we do place a high premium on the worldwide, progressive, democratic, and leftist movement in Europe which is championing our cause and struggling to liberate the continent from American nuclear bases and inter-continental missiles.

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END